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Weekend



Ford will lay in state this weekend at the Capitol.

Ford Tribute: Bush declares Tuesday a day of mourning | **3**

Mercy Plea: Saddam lawyer seeks to stave off execution | **6**



Kids in the Ball: Terps count on young stars to win their bowl game | **12**

ENTERTAINMENT

High Wattage: Naomi Watts lights up the period drama 'The Painted Veil.' Also, the ascendancy of YouTube.

>> **27-36**



Weather >> Partly Sunny



58 | 37

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 43



AFTERIMAGE 2006

The year's most memorable photos | **18-25**



Big Apple's Preps for New Year Bash

A LIGHT TOUCH: Workers install the final light bulbs in the exterior of the Times Square New Year's Eve Ball Thursday in New York City. Thousands are expected to ring in the new year Sunday night in the Big Apple. Government officials say there's little fear of a terrorist attack.

FDA OKs Meat, Milk Of Clones

Approval may spark new 'clone-free' labels at stores

WASHINGTON | Meat and milk from cloned animals may not appear in supermarkets for years despite being deemed by the government as safe to eat. But do not be surprised if "clone-free" labels appear sooner.

Ben & Jerry's, for one, wants consumers to know that its ice cream comes from regular cows and not clones. The Ben & Jerry's label already says its farmers do not use bovine growth hormone.

For food that does come from clones, the Food and Drug Administration is unlikely to require labels, officials said.

The FDA gave preliminary approval Thursday to meat and milk from cloned animals or their offspring. Federal scientists found virtually no difference between food from clones and food from conventional livestock.

The government believes "meat and milk from cattle, swine and goat clones is as safe to eat as the food we eat every day," said Stephen F. Sundlof, director of the FDA Center for Veterinary Medicine. Meat and milk from the offspring of clones is also safe, the agency concluded. LIBBY QUAIL (AP)

BOOMING | Wait, That's Not Thunder All hail is breaking loose on John Diepersloot's farm in Kingsburg, Calif. He's trying to protect his apricot and peach orchards with hail cannons; he hopes the thunderous booms from the 20-foot noisemakers



will disrupt the formation of hail stones. He has more than 20 of the cannons, which switch on automatically when thunderstorms approach. The cannons can cost up to \$70,000 each; some scientists think it's a waste of money. (AP) **EyeOpeners | Page 2**

eyeOpeners

WHOOPS

Taking In the Trash

A Whakatane, New Zealand, family was able to save their trash from the garbage man just moments before it was tossed in the trash truck — and ended up recovering a winning lottery ticket, the New Zealand Press Association reported. The family had thrown their tickets away, thinking they had lost — but when they heard that the winning ticket had been bought at the same shop at which they had purchased theirs, they raced out to the trash to re-check. They reached their curbside trash a few seconds before it was taken away, then rummaged through it to find the ticket. They later found out they won a new car. (EXPRESS)



EXCUSES

It's Called a 'Sick Day'

A Straubing, Germany, woman who did not want to go to work sent a text message to her parents saying she had been kidnapped, sparking a massive search, the New Zealand Press Association reported. The woman was scheduled for work at a fast-food restaurant on Saturday, but didn't show up; meanwhile, her parents informed police of the message and officials spread out across the area trying to find her. The next morning, the woman turned up, saying she had been set free by the kidnapper — but she later admitted to police she had made the story up because she didn't want her co-workers to know where she was. She now faces a fine of up to \$1,300. (EXPRESS)



HAIRDOS

Barber Ship

In honor of this creation as part of Barber's Day celebrations in Havana, an adaptation of the well-known poem: *On Wednesday/Columbus sailed this model's mane/He had this ship and sailed from Spain/He sailed through gel, dye and hairspray/He sailed through parts and split ends frayed/He used bleached roots to find his way/A hairclip also helped him know/Where to place ribbons and bows/Hairdressers were on board/Some straightened while others curled.* (EXPRESS)



Pregnant German women, shouldn't you be avoiding drinking wine anyway?

MONEY

Damn It, Honey! You Can't Give Birth Yet!

Pregnant Germans are trying to delay their births to take advantage of a government payout available in 2007, the BBC reported. Parents of children born in the new year will get two-thirds of their salary — up to \$33,000 — to ease the financial burden of a family. Doctors are warning women not to take medication to delay labor; however, experts suggest avoiding red wine, which may quicken the onset of labor. (EXPRESS)

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— John Edwards, who formally announced his candidacy for president in 2008 on Thursday.



Nation

In Brief



Pedestrians brace against blowing snow in downtown Denver Thursday.

DENVER Colo. Gov. Declares State of Emergency Ahead of Blizzard

New Year's travelers jammed the Denver airport Thursday, trying to get out of town ahead of a snowstorm that threatened to close runways. The storm was expected to dump up to 18 inches of snow on the Denver area overnight and prompted Gov. Bill Owens to again declare a state-wide disaster emergency, just a week after a blizzard shut the airport for more than two days. (AP)

WASHINGTON Mental Health Insurance Bill Faces Vote in House

Congress will mull legislation next year that would require equal health insurance coverage for mental and physical illnesses. In the last congressional session, 231 House members — more than half of the chamber — signed on as co-sponsors. The GOP leadership, which in the past had expressed concern that the proposal would drive up health insurance premiums, wouldn't bring it up for a vote. (AP)

Nation Awaits Ford's State Funeral

Bush declares Tuesday a Day of Mourning for the late 38th President

WASHINGTON | President Bush declared Tuesday a National Day of Mourning for the late Gerald R. Ford, asking people to gather in places of worship to honor Ford's memory and ordering nonessential government departments to close.

"I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance," Bush said.

Ford's state funeral is missing some of the grandeur of the one for Ronald Reagan two years ago, a reflection of the 38th president's modest ways and lesser imprint on the nation, according to further planning details released Thursday.

Part of it will be missing Bush, too. The president will not attend Ford's state funeral in the Rotunda on Saturday night, but will return to Washington from his Texas ranch on Monday, pay respects to Ford while his remains lie in state at the Capi-



Judy Plumley, of Brighton, Mich., views a photograph of former President Gerald R. Ford at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Thursday.

tol, and speak Tuesday at services for Ford at the National Cathedral.

If some of the formalities are toned down, Ford's goodbye is packed with events tied to the touchstones of his life.

A prayer service and public viewing Friday in Palm Desert, Calif., near Ford's retirement haven for 30 years, begins a five-day chain of ceremonies that includes two funeral services in Washington; yet another,

FUNERAL PLANS FOR FORD

- **Friday:** President Ford's casket lies at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Palm Desert, Calif.
- **Saturday:** A motorcade carrying Ford's casket will travel past the WWII memorial to the Capitol for a 7 p.m. state funeral.
- **Sunday-Tuesday:** Ford's body lies in state at the Capitol.
- **Tuesday:** Ford's remains are moved to the National Cathedral for a 10:30 a.m. funeral service.

er, in Grand Rapids, Mich., adopted hometown of the Nebraska native, and additional commemorations in the Capitol.

Readying itself in a hurry, the U.S. capital prepared to receive Ford's remains and honor the memory of the congressional veteran who achieved the highest office by happenstance.

CALVIN WOODWARD (AP)

Special Report: Gerald R. Ford
For news, analysis and multimedia about Ford visit washingtonpost.com

Johnson Remains In Critical State

WASHINGTON | Sen. Tim Johnson turned 60 on Thursday, two weeks after emergency surgery to repair a brain hemorrhage that has left him in critical condition.

Julianne Fisher, a spokeswoman for the South Dakota Democrat,

said Johnson won't be present in the first days of the new Congress next week but is continuing to improve. She said he is responsive to directions from his wife but has not yet spoken. It's too early to tell how long recovery will take, Fisher said.

In a statement Thursday, Johnson's doctors said he remains in intensive care at George Washington University Hospital. (AP)

7 Officers Indicted in New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS | Seven police officers were indicted Thursday on murder or attempted murder charges in a pair of shootings on a bridge that left two people dead during the chaotic aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The district attorney portrayed the officers as trigger happy.

"We cannot allow our police

officers to shoot and kill our citizens without justification like rabid dogs," District Attorney Eddie Jordan said.

The shootings took place under murky circumstances six days after the storm and became one of a widely cited example of the anarchy that descended after Katrina. (AP)

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Nation

25

The percentage of people who listed President Bush as the villain of the year, an AP poll says, ahead of Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden. The president was also picked as hero of the year by 13 percent of respondents, ahead of the troops in Iraq.

Fans in N.Y. Bid Farewell to Brown

Crowd at Harlem's Apollo pays tribute to legendary soul singer

NEW YORK | Even in death, James Brown can move a crowd.

Thousands of people danced and sang in the streets outside the Apollo Theater on Thursday in raucous celebration of the music legend's life as his body was displayed to the public on the stage where he made his 1956 debut.

Music thumped from storefronts and portable stereos. Brown's wails and growls even blasted inside the auditorium as fans marched quietly, single-file past his open gold coffin.

Brown lay resplendent in a blue suit, white gloves and silver shoes. Flanking the casket were giant pho-



Reverend Al Sharpton stands next to the body of James Brown during a public viewing at the Apollo Theater in New York City's Harlem neighborhood on Thursday.

tographs of the singer performing. An arrangement of red flowers on a white background spelled out his

nickname: Godfather. It was maybe the first time the hardest-working man in show business graced a stage

in stillness, but that didn't stop his fans from partying.

"This is a celebration of his life," said 41-year-old Bryant Preudhomme of New York. "James Brown gave you heart. He lifted you up when you were down. He gave you hope."

Brown, who died of heart failure Christmas morning at 73, lay in repose in the theater that helped catapult him to fame, and was the setting for a thrilling live album in 1962. A program for family and close friends was planned.

His body was carried to the theater through the streets of Harlem on a majestic white carriage drawn by two white horses.

Hundreds of fans followed behind the caisson singing the chorus of Brown's anthem, "Say it Loud — I'm Black and I'm Proud."

To many, Brown was more than

just an energetic performer. As Norman Brand of Harlem waited for the procession to begin, the 55-year-old recalled hearing Brown's "Say it Loud" anthem for the first time in his native Alabama.

"It really changed the attitude of most black people. It was like a wake-up call. Before that, if you were called black, it was like an insult," Brand said.

Mourners came from far and wide to attend the first in a trio of services that will keep Brown almost as busy in death as he was in life. His casket arrived at the Rev. Al Sharpton's Harlem headquarters just before noon. Sharpton, a close friend of the singer's, accompanied the body from Georgia and walked behind the carriage Thursday.

On Friday, a private ceremony is planned at a church near Augusta, Ga. A second public viewing of the singer's body will be held Saturday at the James Brown Arena in Augusta.

LARRY NEUMEISTER (AP)

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PICKY PANDAS: It takes four full-time bamboo hunters at Zoo Atlanta to satisfy the palates of the zoo's panda pair, Lun Lun and Yang Yang. And they're not always successful. The animals' diet consists almost entirely of bamboo, but they will eat only about 20 of the 200 or so species that grow in Georgia.

Nation

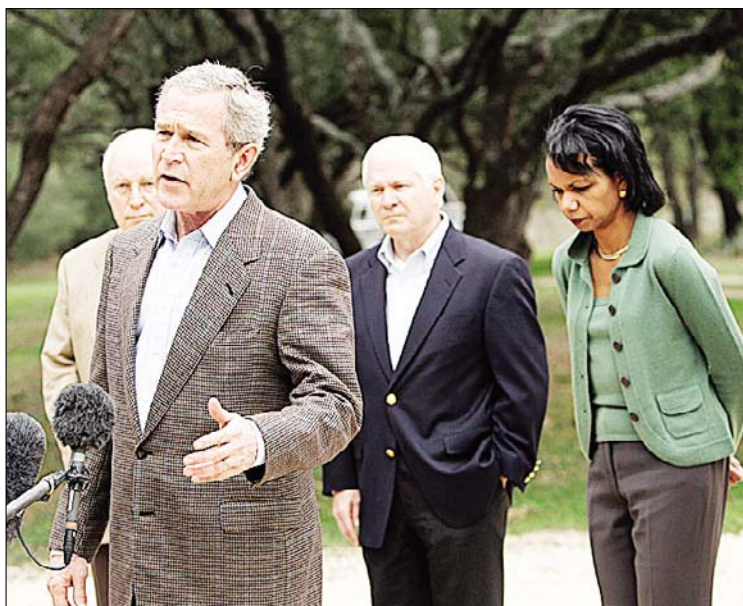
Bush, Advisers Consult on Iraq Plan

President says more time needed to craft new blueprint for war

CRAWFORD, TEXAS | President Bush worked nearly three hours at his Texas ranch on Thursday to design a new U.S. policy in Iraq, then emerged to say that he and his advisers need more time to craft the plan he'll announce in the new year.

Burdened by low approval ratings on his handling of the war, the president is under mounting pressure to come up with a new blueprint for U.S. involvement in Iraq where the execution of Saddam Hussein — perhaps as early as this weekend — could incite further violence.

"We've got more consultation to do until I talk to the country about the plan," Bush said. "Obviously, we'll continue to work with the Iraqi government. The key to success in Iraq is to have a government that's willing to deal with the elements there that are trying to pre-



President Bush, with members of his security team, said Thursday that more discussion is needed before the White House announces a new strategy for Iraq.

vent this young democracy from succeeding."

Vice President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Gen. Peter Pace, chairman of the

Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Secretary of Defense Robert Gates stood by Bush as he made his three-minute statement, then turned away, ignoring a reporter's question about the

pending execution.

The president is considering the so-called surge option: increasing the number of troops in Iraq and embedding more U.S. advisers in Iraqi units in hopes of quelling violence to provide a window of opportunity for political reconciliation and rebuilding.

Initially, White House advisers said Bush would announce a plan before Christmas. Then, they said it was more likely after the first of the year. His speech now is to occur in the early weeks of January.

Democrats and others in the military community say sending more troops only increases the Iraqis' dependence on U.S. forces and allows them to delay making the painful political compromises needed to end the violence. Democrats are calling on Bush to end America's open-ended commitment in Iraq and some want to see Congress put restrictions on funding any large increases in U.S. troops there.

DEB RIECHMANN (AP)

Ethics Charges Filed Against Duke Prosecutor

RALEIGH, N.C. | The North Carolina bar filed ethics charges Thursday against the prosecutor in the Duke lacrosse case, accusing him of breaking four rules of professional conduct when speaking to the reporters about the sensational case.

The punishment for ethics violations can range from admonishment to disbarment. Among the rules District Attorney Mike Nifong was accused of violating was a prohibition against making comments "that have a substantial likelihood of heightening public condemnation of the accuser."

The charges will be heard by an independent body called the Disciplinary Hearing Commission.

The bar said it opened a case against Nifong in March 30, a little more than two weeks after the party where a 28-year-old student at North Carolina Central University hired to perform as a stripper said she was raped. (AP)

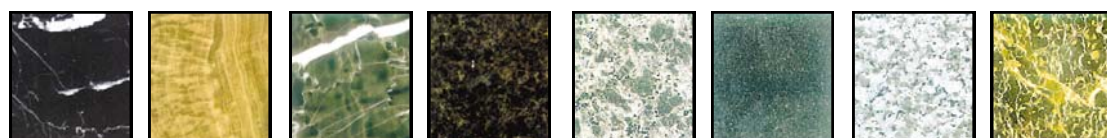
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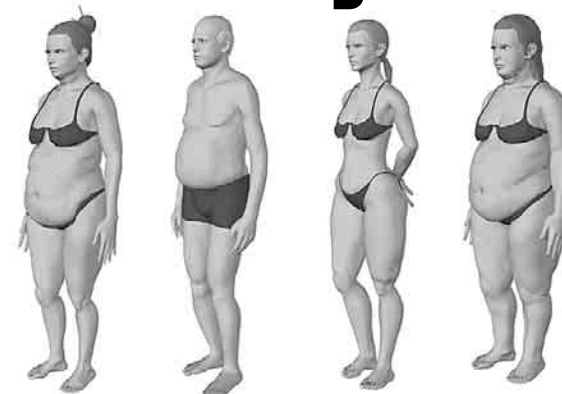
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World



HAPPY BIRTH PAY: A pregnant Kidderminster, England, woman who has given birth to previous children on Dec. 26, 27, and 28, will win a \$1,500 bet if her next child is born Friday, the BBC reported. Wendy Legister was given 29-to-1 odds by a professional bookmaker.

In Brief



A man tries to salvage items from his house in Aceh Tamiang, Indonesia.

BANDA ACEH, INDONESIA **Powerful Floods Destroy Homes, Kill at Least 122**

Flooding in remote northwestern Indonesia has swept away thousands of houses and killed at least 122 people, officials said Thursday, as neighboring Malaysia braced for more torrential rain and wind. Indonesian authorities deployed boats and helicopters to shift aid to survivors of flash floods and landslides that displaced more than 400,000 on Friday and Saturday. (AP)

TAIPEI, TAIWAN **Companies Scramble to Fix Quake-Damaged Networks**

Telecom companies quickly cobbled together new telephone and Internet networks on Thursday as Asia began recovering from a Taiwanese earthquake that snapped undersea cables, snarling service across the tech-savvy region. Less than 48 hours after the powerful quake damaged the two crucial cables off Taiwan's southern tip, companies from South Korea to Singapore said they had been able to restore most of their service to millions of customers. (AP)

HARARE, ZIMBABWE **Report: 16,290 Illegal Miners Arrested in Sweep**

Police in Zimbabwe arrested 16,290 illegal miners — mostly gold panners — in a countrywide blitz that began just over a month ago, the official media reported Thursday. More than 6.6 pounds of gold, 520 tons of gold ore, 4,876 diamonds and 20 emeralds were recovered, police spokesman Oliver Mandipaka told The Herald, a government newspaper. (AP)

Saddam's Lawyer Pleads for Mercy

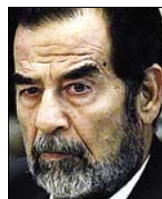
Former Iraqi leader could be executed as early as this weekend

BAGHDAD, IRAQ | Saddam Hussein's lawyer made a last-ditch effort to impede his execution Thursday, beseeching world leaders to prevent the United States from handing over the ousted dictator to Iraqi authorities who plan to hang him.

The plea from Saddam's attorney came as the U.S. military reported the deaths of five more troops and

announced that Iraqi forces, backed by American forces, captured an al-Qaeda in Iraq cell leader believed responsible for the June kidnapping of two soldiers who were found tortured and killed.

With at least 72 more Iraqis killed in sectarian violence, U.S. officials and Iraqis expressed concern about the potential for even worse bloodshed follow-



Saddam

ing Saddam's execution. The lawyer, Khalil al-Dulaimi, said transferring Saddam to Iraqi authorities could be the trigger.

Iraq's highest court on Tuesday rejected Saddam's appeal against his conviction and death sentence for the killing of 148 Shiites in the northern city of Dujail in 1982. The court said the former president should be hanged within 30 days.

The White House was preparing for Saddam's execution as early as this weekend, based on informa-

tion that U.S. officials in Baghdad were receiving from the Iraqi government, a senior administration official said in Washington.

But Iraq's deputy justice minister, Boshho Ibrahim, said Saddam shouldn't be hanged for another few weeks. "The law does not say within 30 days, it says after the lapse of 30 days," Ibrahim said.

Al-Dulaimi, Saddam's lawyer, said the ousted leader should enjoy protection from his enemies as a "prisoner of war" and remain in U.S. custody. LAUREN FRAYER (AP)



DANGEROUS PATH: A girl walks past a burned car in the Mineira slum in Rio de Janeiro, Thursday, after a wave of gang attacks.

19 Die in Burst of Rio Gang Violence

Several police stations attacked, buses set ablaze in show of force

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL | Drug gangs set fire to buses and opened fire on police stations and posts around Rio de Janeiro early Thursday in a wave of violence that killed 19 people and wounded 21, the state's top law enforcement officer said.

The victims included seven who burned to death in one of six torched buses and three policemen,

said Roberto Precioso, head of Rio's Public Safety Department.

Two other civilians died, including a street vendor caught in the crossfire of a shootout in Rio's Botafogo district, and seven alleged gang members were killed, he said. Fourteen civilians and seven police officers were injured, he added.

The attacks were apparently a show of force staged before a new governor is sworn in Monday, Precioso said. Police intelligence had warned that gangs were planning attacks for some time.

"It is very difficult to prevent these types of attacks that were practically kamikaze," Precioso said at a news conference.

He said the attacks had apparently been ordered from inside one of the state's prisons, but did not elaborate.

Mayor Cesar Maia said gangs appeared to be retaliating against militias — reportedly run by off-duty police officers — that in recent months have been battling drug gangs in slums and charging residents for protection. (AP)

Israel OKs Weapons For Abbas

Egypt able to send embattled Palestinian leader a cache of arms

JERUSALEM | With Israel's blessing, Egypt has delivered a large arms shipment to forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, officials said Thursday — the latest Israeli attempt to boost the embattled leader in his bloody conflict with the militant Islamic Hamas.

Though there has been a week-long hiatus in armed clashes, Palestinians fear the heavily armed security forces of Hamas, which runs the Palestinian government, and Fatah could erupt in violence at any time.

Israel has been trying to reinforce Abbas' standing among his people. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Abbas is a partner for negotiations — unlike Hamas, which rejects the existence of Israel and refuses to renounce violence.

Amos Gilad, a senior Israeli Defense Ministry official, told Israel Radio the military assistance was rendered to reinforce the "forces of peace" against the "forces of darkness" threatening the region, a reference to Islamic extremists. (AP)



TV, FREE: Declaring color television a basic necessity, an Indian political party promised free sets to the poor and subsequently swept to power in May in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. So far, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam party has handed out 60,000 sets and plans to give away 30,000 more.

World

Somali Troops Roll Into Mogadishu

Islamic fighters flee south; Ethiopian forces stop at edge of capital

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA | Jubilant Somalis cheered as troops of the U.N.-backed interim government rolled into Mogadishu unopposed Thursday, putting an end to six months of domination of the capital by a radical Islamic movement.

Ethiopian soldiers stopped on the outskirts of town, after providing much of the military might in the offensive that shattered what had seemed an unbeatable Islamic militia. Islamic fighters fled south vowing to continue the battle.

"We are in Mogadishu," Prime Minister Mohamed Ali Gedi declared after meeting with local clan leaders to discuss the peace-



SWIFT CHANGE: Government soldiers ride through Bur Haqaba, Somalia. Troops successfully entered Mogadishu on Thursday after Islamic fighters fled south.

ful handover of the city.

Despite the celebrations in the streets, worries about the future were widespread in a country that hasn't had an effective national government since clan warlords toppled a longtime dictator 15 years ago.

Many in overwhelmingly Muslim Somalia are suspicious of the transitional government's reliance on neighboring Ethiopia, a traditional rival with a large Christian population and one of East Africa's biggest armies. Witnesses said crowds threw rocks at Ethiopian troops on the city's northern edge.

Somalia's complex clan politics also are a big worry, having undone at least 14 attempts to install a central government.

Gedi's government, set up in 2004 with U.N. backing, is riddled with clan rivalries, most nota-



- **Population:** 8,863,338
- **Capital City:** Mogadishu
- **Area:** Slightly smaller than Texas
- **Government:** No permanent national government; transitional parliamentary federal government
- **Religion:** Sunni Muslim
- **Ethnicity:** Somali 85%, Bantu and other non-Somali 15%

(CIA WORLD FACTBOOK)

bly between the young prime minister and elderly president.

"The future of Somalia is very bleak and Somalis will share the same fate with Iraq and Afghanistan," Mogadishu resident Abdulahi Mohamed Laki said. "The transitional government has no broad support in the capital."

MOHAMED OLAD HASSAN (AP)

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Local



Work continues on a National Cathedral parking garage on Thursday. Some signs of construction will remain visible during former President Gerald Ford's funeral.

Cathedral Not at Its Best for Ford

Construction on new parking garage can't be hidden for funeral

WASHINGTON | The Washington National Cathedral, where a funeral service will be held Tuesday for former President Gerald Ford, is among Washington's most majestic structures — a massive, limestone edifice that towers over the capital while gracefully reaching skyward.

It also happens to be a sprawling construction site. Workers are finishing an underground parking garage, and the cathedral's front yard is full of sand, mud and equipment.

Completion of the project is a short two months away, but there's not much workers can do to beautify the site in time for the funeral, said Ed Green, senior project manager for James G. Davis Construction.

What they will do is remove

potential safety hazards — including paint, compressed liquids and tools — from the site. They also plan to hang additional cloth screens over the chain-link fence and lay stones to serve as emergency exit paths, he said Thursday.

The project, which began in summer 2005 and at its peak employed more than 140 people, is aimed at solving the cathedral's parking shortage and getting visitors' vehicles off streets. The garage has space for about 400 cars and 18 tour buses, Green said.

"The folks in the neighborhood can't wait till we're done," he said.

The garage includes an underground lobby with a gift shop and elevators to bring people to ground level. The elevators are enclosed in modern-looking glass and steel structures that protrude from the ground. Green jokingly compared them to I.M. Pei's controversial pyramid at the Louvre Museum in Paris.

SARAH KARUSH (AP)



BY THE NUMBERS: In just six hours through Monday night and Tuesday morning, three people were killed and four others were wounded in Washington shootings. Violent crime police director C.V. Morris said such outbreaks are common around December and January. (AP)

CHECK UP: The D.C. Council has passed a bill to create a Web site that lists doctors' credentials — and tells whether they've lost malpractice suits or been disciplined.

Local

Ex-Ford House For Sale

Former president's onetime Va. home has been listed for months

ALEXANDRIA, VA. | The modest two-story home where Gerald Ford spent nearly 20 years as a Michigan congressman, vice president and 10 days as president is for sale.

The home is owned by the president of an Iranian English-language newspaper company, who has tried to find someone to take it off his hands since September. Javad Khakbaz has dropped the price from \$1.05 million to \$999,000.

The home, which sits on about a quarter-acre of land situated 8 miles from the White House, has some out-of-the-ordinary elements. Neighbors said there are steel beams under the driveway to support limousines and there are countless telephone lines installed by Secret Service.

There also is a gold-lettered National Park Service sign right of the front door that reads: President Gerald R. Ford, Jr. Residence.

"It's a wonderful family home," said real-estate agent Joan Dixon. (AP)



Players concentrate during their games Thursday during the four-day National Collegiate Chess Tournament, held at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington.

Chess Championships Kick Off in the District

UMBC, winner of last year's tournament, is without its top player

WASHINGTON | In the world of college chess, it's the equivalent of the World Series.

More than 200 top players are competing at the four-day Pan-American Chess Championships at the Renaissance Hotel downtown.

The team from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, has won the title six times in the past seven years and is currently the defending champion. This year, however, the team's top player, Alexander Onischuk, is ineligible because he is taking the semester off.

The top four teams move on to the national tournament in March in Dallas. (AP)

Archives Exhibit Pays Tribute to Ford

WASHINGTON | The National Archives is displaying items that pay tribute to former President Gerald Ford's decades of political service.

The documents on display include Ford's first oath of office as

a member of the House in 1949, and his final State of the Union address, delivered on January 12, 1977.

The documents will be on exhibit through January 11 in the East Rotunda Gallery of the Archives building. (AP)

BY THE NUMBERS: Dominion Virginia Power will reopen its Hopewell plant in the spring, creating 30 jobs and electricity to power 15,750 homes, the company said. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, December 28

DISTRICT	
Mid-day Lucky Numbers	8-7-9
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	2-5-6
Mid-day DC 4	0-1-7-9
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	5-5-5-2
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	3-5-13-28-35
Daily 6 (Wed.)	3-9-10-22-34-38 (16)
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	9-19-33-34-35 (19)

MARYLAND	
Mid-day Pick 3	9-5-5
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	2-5-5
Mid-day Pick 4	1-1-5-0
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	7-9-5-8
Match 5 (Wed.)	2-11-18-27-31 (10)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	3-5-10-13-36-43
VIRGINIA	
Mid-day Pick 3	2-2-7
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	5-3-5
Mid-day Pick 4	1-5-5-6
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	6-6-8-1

Mid-day Cash 5	1-11-23-25-34
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	7-14-20-24-32
Win For Life (Wed.)	11-15-22-28-40-42 (41)

MULTI-STATE GAMES	
Powerball (Wed.)	14-16-27-29-41 (29)
Power Play	x3

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Money

8.4 The amount, in billions, that US Airways has offered to purchase Delta airlines. Chief executive Doug Parker said Thursday US Airways will not increase its offer, but will not give up its pursuit to buy its competitor.

Questions Arise Over Jobs' Stocks

Apple's shares fall as reports raise doubts about '01 transactions

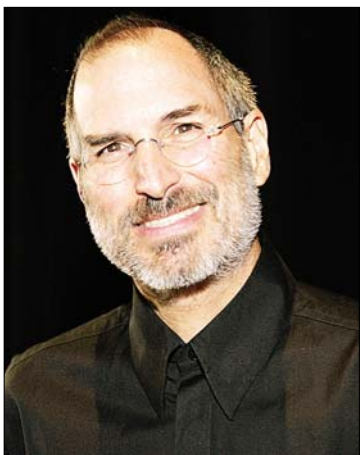
SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA | Shares of Apple Computer Inc. fell more than 1.5 percent Thursday after new details of a federal investigation into the company's stock options practices raised questions about the role of its charismatic CEO, Steve Jobs.

Citing unnamed people familiar with the matter, the Financial Times reported that Jobs received 7.5 million stock options in 2001 without the required board authorization and that documents were later falsified to indicate otherwise.

In October, Apple said its own internal probe had found no misconduct by any current officers and largely exonerated Jobs of any wrongdoing.

Late Tuesday, The Recorder, a San Francisco-based legal publication reported federal prosecutors were looking into forged documents at Apple related to administering stock options.

The paper also said Jobs has hired his own attorneys outside of



Steve Jobs is under fire for allegedly receiving stock options improperly.

the company's legal team to represent him.

Apple spokesman Steve Dowling said the company is providing the Securities and Exchange Commission with the results of its internal investigation into its stock options granting practices, but had no further comment.

Financial analysts, along with Wall Street, have largely shrugged off the reports, seeing little impact as long as Jobs, Apple's iconic co-founder and CEO, remained unscathed. MAY WONG (AP)

Real Estate Reports Boost Economy

WASHINGTON | The U.S. economy is ending the year with a hopeful set of reports showing that consumer confidence soared in December and the worst of the downturn for the battered housing market may be over.

The Conference Board reported Thursday that consumer confidence shot up to an eight-month high of 109.0 in December.

That was only slightly below last April's 109.8, when confidence had



Home sales rose two straight months.

hit the highest point in four years before soaring gasoline prices and a slumping housing market took

their toll on Americans' perception of the future.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Realtors reported that sales of existing homes edged up 0.6 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.28 million units, after a 0.5 percent rise in sales in October.

It marked the first back-to-back increases in sales of existing homes since the spring of 2005 and followed news Wednesday that sales of new homes rose 3.4 percent last month. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
TxPac	215.00	+16.00	+8.0
Mediast	13.21	+.80	+6.4
FrankCov	6.70	+.38	+6.0
Fairchild	2.11	+.11	+5.5
GpoRadio	10.70	+.54	+5.3
Losers			
GrChina	29.11	-3.94	-11.9
BallyTotF	2.51	-.17	-6.3
StarGas	3.66	-.18	-4.7
Worthgtn	17.73	-.79	-4.3
VeraSun n	19.50	-.86	-4.2

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers			
STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Point.360	3.52	+1.16	+49.2
FuweiF n	17.50	+4.50	+34.6
ThrshldPh	4.11	+.91	+28.4
Champln	8.61	+1.86	+27.5
lomai n	5.03	+.03	+0.6
Losers			
SentoCp	2.39	-.85	-26.2
EncysiveP	4.49	-1.39	-23.6
FreeSeas	2.72	-.64	-19.0
OceanB	2.00	-.27	-11.9
OraLabs	5.14	-.53	-9.3

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.25	5.25
3-month disc	4.88	4.84
2-year	4.80	4.65
10-year	4.69	4.55
30-year	4.81	4.69



Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5095	.5111	.5828
Canadian Dollar	1.1607	1.1611	1.1637
European Euro	.7607	.7620	.8449
Japanese Yen	118.93	118.71	117.83
Mexican Peso	10.8581	10.9005	10.7560
Taiwanese Dollar	32.69	32.71	33.10

DOW	NASDAQ	S&P 500
-9.05	-5.65	-2.11
-0.07	-0.23	-0.15
12501.52	2425.57	1424.73

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AbtLab	48.93	-.07	+24.1
AbraxisBio	27.49	-.29	-29.1
Allergan	120.04	+.08	+11.2
AstraZen	53.80	+.15	+10.7
BarrPhm	50.58	-.31	-18.8
BrMySq	26.31	+.02	+14.5
ForestLab	50.84	-.10	+25.0
Hospira	33.61	+.11	-21.4
JohnJn	66.42	+.41	+10.5
LillyEli	52.01	+.01	-8.1
Merck	43.55	+.18	+36.9
Pfizer	26.07	-.08	+11.8
SchergPl	23.86	-.04	+14.4
Sepracor	61.68	+.08	+19.5
Wyeth	51.42	+.12	+11.6



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Changes in Appetite • Lack of Concentration
Feelings of Anger • Breast tenderness • Bloating

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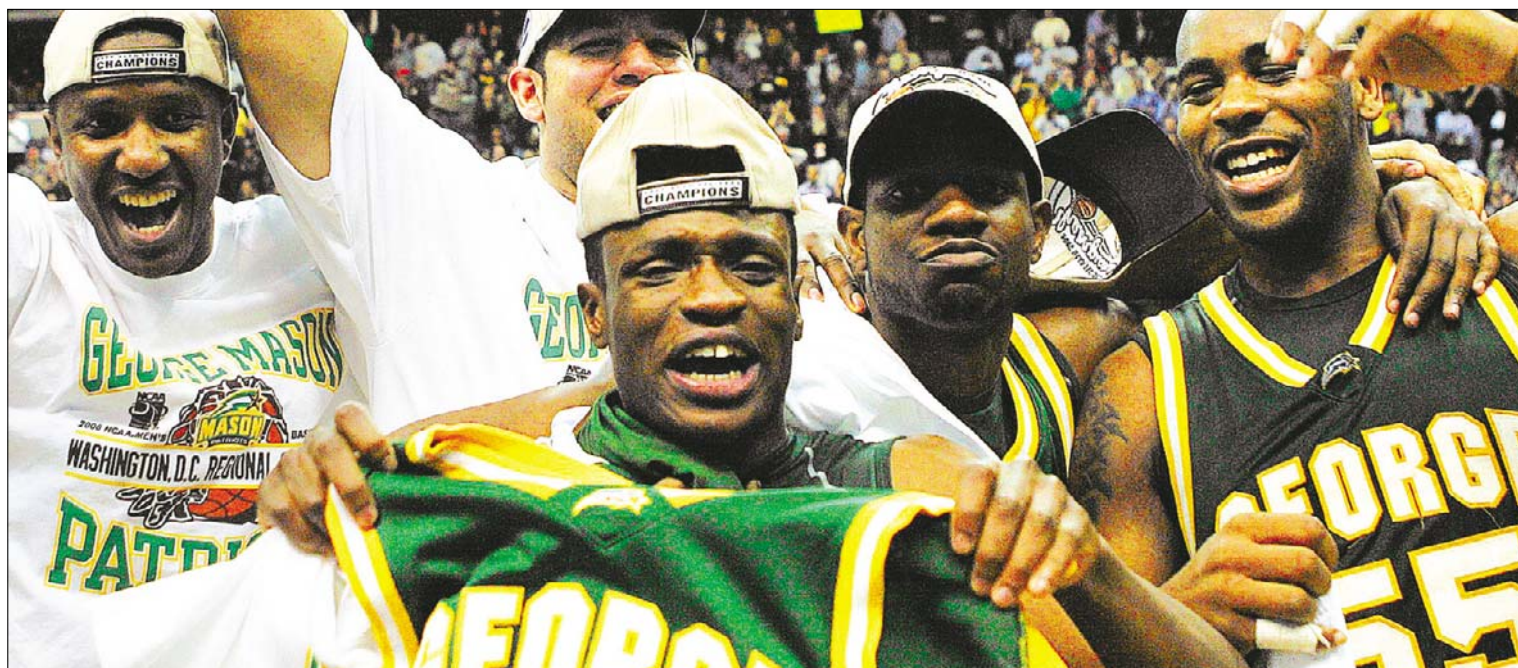


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A publication of The Washington Post

**REDSKINS**

Looking Past the Weekend: The Redskins have a game to play this week, but most of them are more concerned about the future. | 13

Sports Weekend



CINDERELLA'S BALL: George Mason celebrates reaching the Final Four after beating heavily favored UConn, above. Zinedine Zidane ends his career with a head-butt, right.



Up-and-Down Ride: It started off as one of the most inspiring stories of the year: Floyd Landis defied all odds to win the Tour de France. Then, thanks to doping allegations, everything collapsed faster than the Redskins' playoff hopes. Maybe Landis can hang out with Bonds somewhere near Denial River.

Tiger's Tale: It's no longer news when Tiger Woods wins two majors and is the PGA's Player of the Year. But the way he won — missing the cut at the U.S. Open six weeks after losing his father only to win six straight tournaments — is absurdly good, even for Tiger.

Don't Call Him Babe: If only it were Barry Bonds' gut and not his muscles blowing up like a hot air balloons, then no one would have needed him about passing Babe Ruth on the all-time home runs list. At least we know where his \$16 million contract will go.

Bowled Over: We get it. Everyone is sick of the BCS. For a month, we argued over who deserved to be in the title game — as we've done three of the past four years. Perhaps everything will be settled when the games are played. But probably not.

Wait Till Next Year: You take the good with the bad, right? Frank Robinson got run out of town and Alfonso Soriano stole far more than 40 bases from the Cubs with his free-agent contract, but the Nats finally have owners in the Lerner and a new stadium being built. Now they can focus on long-term success — emphasis on the loooong term. IAN HERBERT AND MATT SWENSON (EXPRESS)

High Fives, Low Fives

A memorable 2006 was filled with both good and bad

YEAR IN REVIEW | It's easy to remember the head-butts and steroid accusations flying around in 2006, but do you remember that the Flying Tomato was soaring as well?

In some years, the Winter Olympics might be a big story — just not in a year featuring the World Cup, the Maryland women bringing a basketball title back to College Park and a remarkable Detroit Tigers run that fell just short. In a year with so much good and so much bad, not even the champion Pittsburgh Steelers, Miami Heat, Carolina Hurricanes

and St. Louis Cardinals made our lists of the best and worst sports memories of 2006.

↑ Mason's March: Beating Michigan State, UNC and UConn on the way to the Final Four is no sweat, right? It seemed that way for one magic March when the little-team-that-could became the story of the year. The best part is that George Mason coach Jim Larranaga stayed in Fairfax when the big boys came calling.

↓ Head Ache: Zinedine Zidane's head-butt heard 'round the World Cup and the he said, he said argument that followed will be discussed a hundred years from now. Only two people will ever know what was really said, but it's safe to say it was worse than your typical "You're a bald terrorist and your sister is a slut" joke.

↓ The "Off" Season: Let's see: \$2 million for an offensive coordinator you don't need, plus \$30 million for a safety who doesn't play and two more big deals on receiv-

ers who barely touch the ball. You'd like to think Redskins fans won't get caught up in free agency again, but the truth is the team is great for eight months (the offseason) every year, then disappoints during the other four.

↑ Wiz Kids: It's not like we're talking about two straight championships or anything, but two straight NBA playoff appearances hasn't happened in D.C. since 1988 until this group of Wizards. Plus, we have one of sports' true characters in Agent Zero, a.k.a. Gilbert Arenas.

↑ Slap Shot: No one would have infused the city with more hope than Alex Ovechkin — if anyone actually cared about hockey. Nevertheless, the 2006 Rookie of the Year did mostly-fill Verizon Center (not bad for DC) and is making the Caps look a little like a playoff team.



Floyd Landis wins the Tour de France.



CHRISTIAN HARTMANN/AP

DOUG BENC/GETTY IMAGES

TV Lineup



MARK EVERETT/AP

Red-hot guard Gilbert Arenas leads the Wizards against Orlando on Friday.

→ **FIRST-PLACE FOES:** The first-place Wizards welcome Orlando, which has led the division all season, to Washington on Friday night (7 p.m. on Comcast) and then play the Bucks in Milwaukee on Saturday night (8:30 p.m. on CW).

→ **LOCAL BOWLING ALLEYS:** Maryland returns to Florida, playing Purdue in the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando on Friday (8 p.m. on ESPN), and Navy plays Boston College in the Meineke Car Care Bowl on Saturday (1 p.m. on ESPN).

→ **A FRESH START:** As always, bring in the New Year with a handful of the best college bowl games. The Capital One Bowl (1 p.m. on ABC) pits Arkansas against Wisconsin, and the Gator Bowl features Georgia Tech and West Virginia (1 p.m. on CBS). Then the BCS gets started with Michigan and USC in the Rose Bowl (4:45 p.m. on ABC) and Boise State and Oklahoma square off in the Fiesta Bowl (8:30 p.m. on FOX).

Young and Restless Terps

Team is led in part by underclassmen eager to revitalize the program

TERPS FOOTBALL | They told him not to do it — that he would regret it.

Go to Maryland? Bad idea, they said. The Terrapins were going nowhere fast. But Darrius Heyward-Bey, for reasons that are only now becoming clear, didn't listen.

"When I was getting recruited, they had the 5-6 season and I had all types of college coaches calling me, telling me I'm making the wrong decision going to Maryland with them coming off a 5-6 season," the redshirt freshman receiver said. "But now at 8-4, if we can win 9 games, that puts us right back in the mix for the preseason top 25."

Heyward-Bey spent his first year on the sidelines, watching Maryland's second consecutive 5-6 season. Then he stepped on the field and, with a handful of other exciting young players, helped rejuvenated the Terrapins, who take on Purdue (8-5) Friday night in Orlando's Champs Sports Bowl.

With a team-leading 41 catches for 613 yards and four scores, Heyward-Bey was named to Sporting News' Freshman All-America team. Against Miami, he caught touchdown passes of 96 and 65 yards.

"Last year, when I got redshirted, I felt like our best players were our youngest players," he said. "I think it'll carry over to next year and hopefully we'll win the ACC championship."



JOEL RICHARDSON/TWP

The Terps' Darrius Heyward-Bey was criticized for coming to a struggling Maryland program but has helped lead the team to an 8-4 record and a bowl appearance.

Among the offensive skill players, quarterback Sam Hollenbach is the only regular who won't be back next season.

Though the defense will lose more players, it also is in fine shape, thanks to the emergence of young players like linebacker Erin Henderson. The sophomore averaged

double-digit tackles in each of the last five games to finish the season as the Terrapins' leading tackler.

He figures to be a big part of the Terrapins' future, but it was watching his older brother, E.J. Henderson, lead Maryland to the Orange Bowl in Miami after the 2001 season that instilled in him the desire

Three Burning QUESTIONS



1 Secondary concern? Behind junior quarterback Curtis Painter, Purdue has the nation's sixth-ranked passing attack, averaging 293.7 yards per game.

2 Sam Hollenbach's legacy? A victory and Sam Hollenbach could be remembered as a winner. Lose and he may be looked at as nothing more than a placeholder.

3 3 in a row? The Terrapins have won their last two bowl games, defeating Tennessee in 2002 and West Virginia a year later.

to get back to a bowl game.

"I got to go to the hotel room and hang out with some of the guys and just see what that whole atmosphere was like," he said. "So it's something I've been wanting to do since I got to the university."

It's that desire that Friedgen said had been lacking in previous campaigns.

"In some ways, I think maybe they didn't want to go to a bowl," he said. "Maybe last year, maybe the year before, I think we had some guys that didn't want to do the extra work. I don't see that in this group." **DEREK TURNER**

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Redskins defensive linemen Cornelius Griffin, left, and Kedric Golston kneel on the ground after losing to the Rams last Sunday.

Final Destination

Redskins have a game to play before changing their focus to next year

REDSKINS | Give me your tired-but-wealthy huddle of Redskins yearning to end this campaign.

The wretched refuse of a year of inconsistencies.

Send the poor defense, overrun and tossed deep on, to me,

I lift my lamp to the path of the offseason.

Oh, but play the Giants before you leave.

Redskin players sat in front of their lockers mid-week at the team's Ashburn, Va., facilities giving long-form answers that had nothing to do with Saturday's season finale.

from the bigger picture.

"It's hard to make changes when a lot of guys are here only one year anyway," receiver Santana Moss said. "The only thing you can do is to bring everybody back in and hopefully things go a little smoother."

Smooth things out? How?

"I don't think we all played good at one time," defensive end Philip Daniels said.

Daniels and guard Derrick Dockery both said they'd like to be back next season, but they're among a host of Redskins who could be salary-cap casualties.

Washington has different problems for the time being.

The defense surrendered 579 yards of total offense to the Rams in last week's 37-31 overtime loss. While improving statistically from last week is a virtual lock, missing Shawn Springs and Marcus Washington won't help.

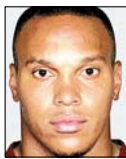
"We got exposed in space," assistant head coach-defense Gregg Williams said. "[St. Louis was] able to make some plays."

Washington also has to confront Tiki Barber, who may be playing his last NFL game. Barber torched the Redskins of late, including 123 yards back in Week 5.

"He can hurt you in so many ways," Williams said.

Of course, New York (7-8) has

Three Burning QUESTIONS



1 Can Betts go for six?
Ladell Betts can set a franchise record with a sixth straight 100-yard rushing effort in the finale.

2 Who will be first in firsts?
Both teams allow opponents to convert 42.8 percent of third-down opportunities. That could lead to some awfully long drives.

3 Where's the motivation?
How badly does Washington want to keep their rivals out of the playoffs?

its own problems. Head Coach Tom Coughlin handed play-calling duties to quarterback coach Kevin Gilbride in a last-ditch effort to turn around Manning's poor play and get the Giants into the postseason.

This game seemed destined to influence playoff fortunes at the beginning of the season. But few saw this scenario coming.

"If we have to stay home," Redskins tailback Ladell Betts said, "we'd like to keep somebody else home, too." **ERIC BRANDNER**



That's because at 5-10, the Washington squad many thought could contend for the Lombardi Trophy is a loss away from officially being the worst team in Joe Gibbs' tenure.

Questions about New York quarterback Eli Manning's turn-over troubles or Giant defensive end Michael Strahan's absence were the momentary departures

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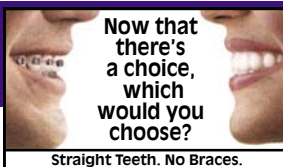
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EVAN VUCCI/AP

Redskins defensive end Phillip Daniels, right, criticized management for making the players report during the offseason. Daniels says the workouts hurt his strength.

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Redskins Want More Offseason

Players say 'voluntary' summer workouts are leading to burnout

REDSKINS | There's something wrong with Phillip Daniels, and he thinks the Washington Redskins offseason program has something to do with it.

"We've got to analyze a lot of things this offseason," Daniels said. "Is the offseason program the best for every guy? Or is it better for guys to go back and do the things they were doing before to be stronger?"

"When I came here, I was big and strong and powerful. I ran through people. I can't say that I can do that now."

If there's one thing that has made coach Joe Gibbs beam with pride over the last two years, it's been the high attendance record — above 95 percent — for the offseason workouts and meetings that usually start in March and run three days per week through mid-June.

The sessions are technically voluntary, but the coach made it clear he expected the players to attend in the name of team camaraderie.

But they can also lead to burnout. Year-round football without much of a break from its mental and physical pounding can be tough to take.

"We love this place, we love the staff and all that, but when it's your time, you kind of want to take your time for you," receiver Antwaan Randle El said. "You have to be able to monitor yourself — because you'll burn yourself out come Week 10 of the following season."

The only player who seemed genuinely excited about the offseason is quarterback Jason Campbell, who wants to work with the receivers and master the playbook as he prepares to enter training camp as the No. 1 starter for the first time.

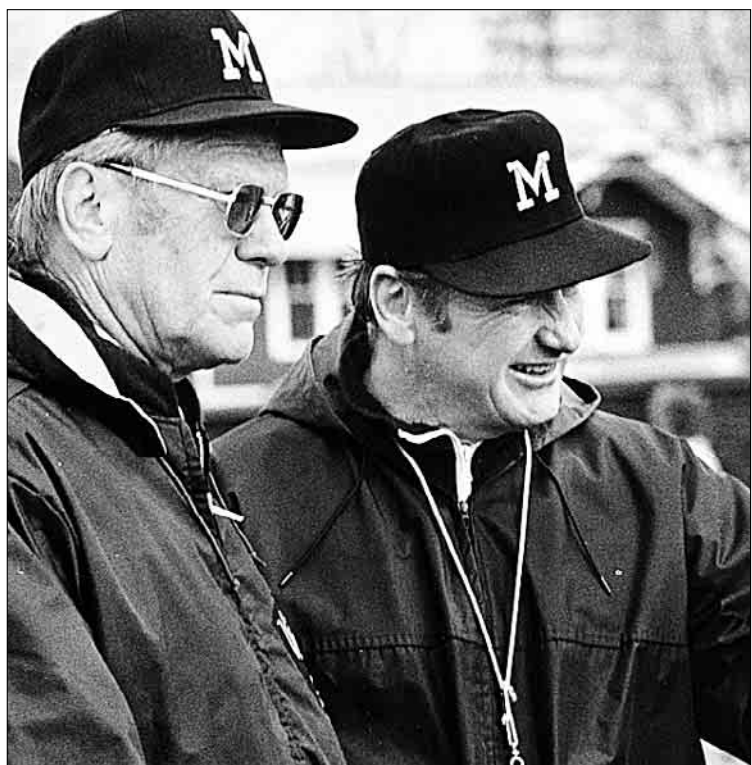
Everyone else looks ready to put some of the "off" back in offseason.

"I feel like we're professionals," Moss said. "Any guy that wants to make something out of this, they're not going to go throw away their offseason." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

HEARSAY | REDSKINS

"I'm a grown man. I don't like getting lied to. I don't mind if somebody says to my face what my flaws are."

—REDSKINS SAFETY ADAM ARCHULETA, BREAKING HIS SILENCE ABOUT A DISAPPOINTING SEASON THAT BEGAN WITH HIGH HOPES AND ENDED WITH HIM BEING BENCHED.



The Wolverines will be without Michigan football legends Gerald Ford, left, and Bo Schembechler when they play in the Rose Bowl on Sunday against Southern Cal.

Michigan Down 2 for Rose Bowl

Days before another big game, Wolverines lose yet another icon

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Another huge game, another moment of silence for Michigan.

It's no stretch to think that Gerald Ford and Bo Schembechler, the former Wolverines all-star and coach, might have been together at the Rose Bowl next week to watch their team play had they been alive and healthy.

Instead, they are both gone, and this tradition-filled school is mourning another big loss as it heads into Monday's game against Southern California, the second straight game that has been preceded by the death of a Wolverine great.

Schembechler died on Nov. 17, the day before then-No. 2 Michigan played No. 1 Ohio State.

"We've lost two of our greatest icons," former Wolverines RB Jamie Morris said Thursday, as Michigan ramped up its preparations. "It's tough. Michigan football is known by those two. Who is going to carry

that flag for the program?"

The irony of the timing of their deaths — coming so close together, and both in the lead up to huge games for the Wolverines — isn't all the two men had in common.

"The word that comes to my mind is 'integrity,'" coach Lloyd Carr said. "Bo ran a program that was beyond reproach. I can remember the firestorm that the Nixon pardon created, and in my mind, that probably cost [Ford] the election. But a large majority of historians argue impressively that it was the right decision for the country."

For the players themselves, Ford's death won't have the same dramatic impact as did Schembechler's.

The former coach had an office in the football complex — aptly named Schembechler Hall — and players saw him quite often.

"History has never been my biggest subject," cornerback Leon Hall said when asked what the name 'Gerald Ford' meant to him. "He was a famous alum. Bo was the coach and we saw him every day."

EDDIE PELLIS (AP)



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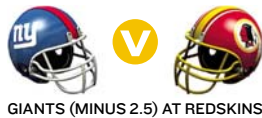
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GIANTS (MINUS 2.5) AT REDSKINS

REDSKINS
Redskins put the final nail in Coughlin.

REDSKINS
The Redskins have won two of their last seven — one more than the Giants.

REDSKINS
I love coach Gibbs, and I always support the home team.

REDSKINS
If the Giants win, they're likely to be the sixth and final wild card entry. But ...



STEELERS (PLUS 6) BENGALS

STEELERS
Pittsburgh sends Bill Cowher out a winner.

STEELERS
Playing for pride, Pittsburgh keeps it close.

BENGALS
Cincinnati at home in a must-win situation.

STEELERS
They are missing the playoffs and would like to make sure the Bengals do too.



PATRIOTS (PLUS 3) TITANS

TITANS
Vince Young ends the year as he started it — a winner.

TITANS
Maybe I would go with the Patriots if Vince Young ever lost.

TITANS
I'm partial to Tennessee because it has a great, young star — like the Caps.

TITANS
This is a spread you wouldn't have seen 10 weeks ago.



FALCONS (PLUS 7.5) AT EAGLES

EAGLES
Is the Keystone State ready for a second straight Super Bowl run?

EAGLES
It's tough to blow out a team in need of a win, but if anyone can, it's Jeff Garcia.

FALCONS
That's a lot of points, and Atlanta has more at stake.

EAGLES
Garcia might fit the Eagles West Coast offense better than Donovan McNabb.



PACKERS (PLUS 2.5) BEARS

BEARS
Green Bay would be the worst 7-8 team in history if not for the Giants.

PACKERS
Not even five INTs against a tough Bears D will stop Favre in his finale.

BEARS
I respect Brett Favre's accomplishments, but Da Bears' D is just too good.

BEARS
The Packers make the playoffs if they win and the Giants and Rams lose.

SEASON TALLY | Matt Swenson: 44-46-4; Ian Herbert: 44-46-4; Celebrities: 53-58-5; Dave Goldberg: 24-33-2; Linda Cropp: 4-1 (leader)

Peterson Returns For a Final Fiesta

Bowl could be the last college game for Oklahoma's star back

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Oklahoma coaches are giving Adrian Peterson extra work in practice before what might be his final college game.

The star running back's Fiesta Bowl appearance against Boise State would be his first game since breaking his collarbone Oct. 14 against Iowa State.

"It means a lot," said Peterson, who added he has about 85 percent of his strength back after missing seven games. "You think about the season we had, the controversy, the injuries and all that, to finish up in a BCS bowl with a chance to establish hopefully a top five ranking for next year, you can't



Adrian Peterson broke his collarbone two months ago, but will play on Sunday.

help but be happy."

Peterson said he has not decided whether to return for his senior season or make himself available for the NFL draft.

"This is my life," he said. "I'll make that decision for me, for whatever I think will make me happy." BOB BAUM (AP)

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ATHLETE OF THE YEAR | BY MATT SWENSON

Human Tiger Is Inspiring in '06

THIS WAS THE YEAR of great stories that weren't.

Zinedine Zidane was on his way to completing a brilliant career — arguably the best of his generation — until that head butt made him look like a goon, no matter the justification.

Floyd Landis, bad hip and all, proved the impossible was possible with his incredible comeback. Then the drug results came back.

Joe Gibbs was set to lead the Redskins to the Super Bowl — until he forgot you can't win a championship through free agency.

Even Tiger Woods looked human — if only for a short time. But by missing a cut at a major after mourning his father's death, Woods showed a human side that only underscored the greatness to follow.

For all of Roger Federer's great tennis play — three more major

titles — the journey taken with Woods was far more fulfilling as a sports fan.

Woods made great shots this year, but that hug with caddie Steve Williams after winning the British Open is what stands out most. Then, you saw the grief he buried in order to win a championship for his father.

That hug with caddie Steve Williams after winning the British Open is what stands out.

Woods found himself that weekend and went on to win the PGA Championship — setting up another possible Tiger Slam — and capture six straight tournaments.

In this year of let-downs, Woods proved he is still the best at what he does and we should never question that.

By being himself, Woods was the athlete of 2006.



To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

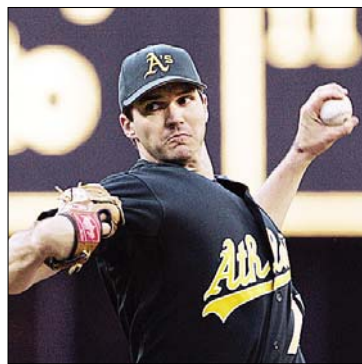
Zito, Giants Agree to \$126 Million Contract

Deal is biggest ever for a pitcher, includes an \$18M option for 2014

BASEBALL | The Bay Area's other Barry is the new face of the San Francisco Giants — now and well into the future.

Barry Zito and the Giants reached a preliminary agreement on the largest pitcher contract in baseball history, a \$126 million, seven-year deal. Zito joins the Giants three weeks after the club came to terms on a new \$16 million, one-year contract with slugger Barry Bonds for a 15th season.

Although there was no immediate confirmation from the Giants, details of Zito's contract were provided Thursday to The Associated Press by two persons familiar with the negotiations who spoke on con-



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

South paw Barry Zito cashed in, agreeing to a \$126 million deal with the Giants.

dition of anonymity because the deal wasn't announced by the team.

Zito's agreement, reached late Wednesday night, includes an \$18 million option for 2014 with a \$7 million buyout that could increase the value to \$137 million.

The deal ties for the sixth largest overall. JANIE MCCAULEY (AP)

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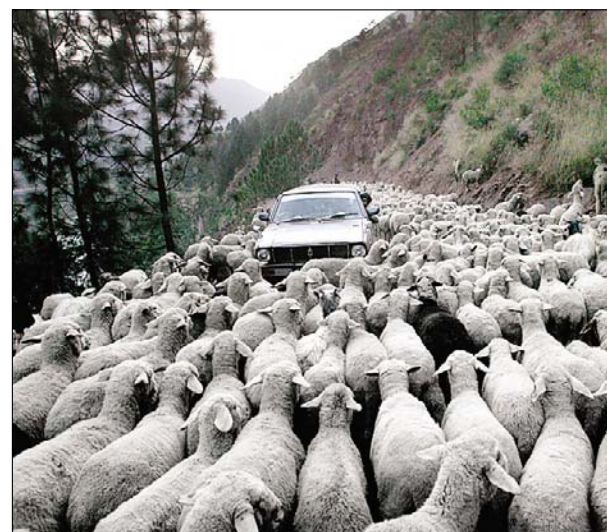
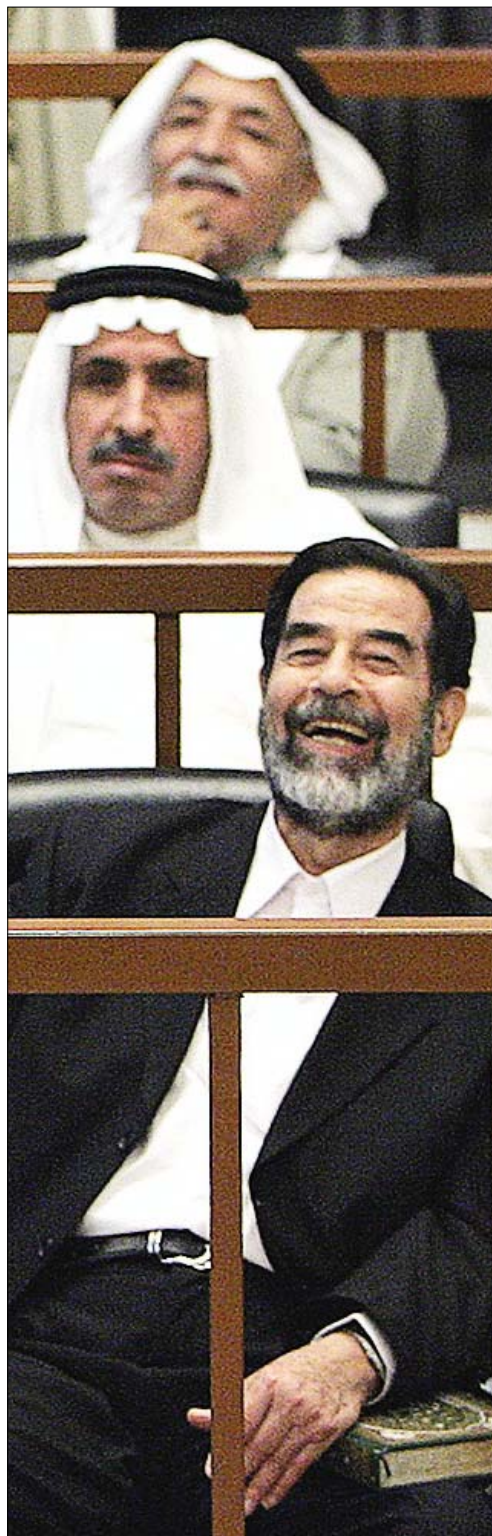
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THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

AFTERIMAGE | 2006



SADDAM'S DAY IN COURT

Ex-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein laughs during his trial for the killing of nearly 150 people from Dujail, Iraq. After many tumultuous weeks in court, Saddam was convicted of mass murder and sentenced to death.

Photo by Erik de Castro/Getty Images



BATTLE IN BEIRUT

Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah speaks on television as smoke rises from an Israeli attack on Beirut in July. The 34-day war dealt a new setback to hopes for peace in the Middle East.

Photo by Kevork Djansezian/AP



GAZA UNREST

Palestinian mourners gather around the body of a militant killed amid an Israeli operation in the Gaza Strip. Palestinian rocket fire into Israel helped spur clashes in the embattled territory.

Photo by Emilio Morenatti/AP

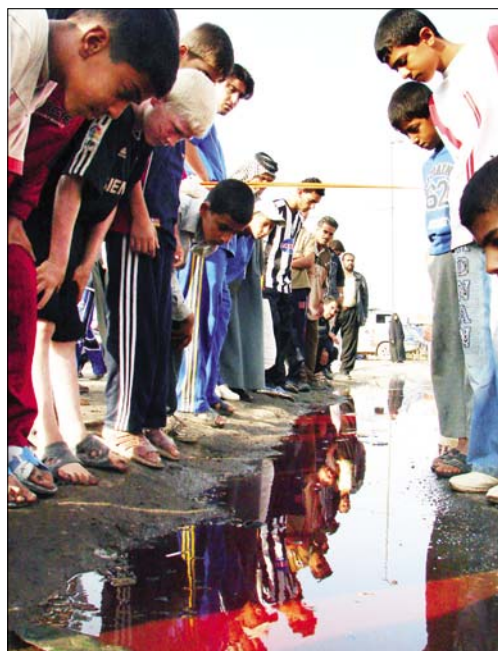


KASHMIR RECOVERS

A flock of sheep blocks a road once covered by a landslide in the mountains of Pakistan's portion of Kashmir. After 2005's devastating earthquake, the region is slowly starting to rebuild.

Photo by David Guttenfelder/AP

AFTERIMAGE 2006



ANARCHY IN IRAQ

Iraqi youth gather around a pool of blood left behind after a bomb blast in Baghdad in October. Civilian and military casualties mounted as violence surged this year.

Photo by Wissam Al-Okaili/AFP/Getty



IRAN STANDOFF

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad speaks to reporters in Tehran in April. Iran's defiant pursuit of a nuclear program prompted U.N. Security Council action.

Photo by Behrouz Mehri/AFP/Getty



ISRAELI IRE

A Jewish settler struggles with Israeli forces in the West Bank in February. A court ruling led to the evacuation of the illegal outpost.

Photo by Oded Balilty/AP



FLU FEARS

A chicken tries to flee Turkish agriculture workers culling poultry to prevent the spread of bird flu. Fears of a possible bird flu pandemic linger among health experts.

Photo by Pier Paolo Cito/AP



DARFUR'S PAIN

A child looks over a fence at a refugee camp in north Darfur, Sudan, in May. Despite lofty peace plans, violence has continued to rage in the region.

Photo by Ramzi Haidar/AFP/Getty

AFTERIMAGE 2006



PARIS PROTESTS

A student walks toward riot police in Paris amid street protests over a new French labor law in March. Under pressure after a wave of massive demonstrations, lawmakers revised the statute.
Photo by Bruno Vincent/Getty



PALESTINIAN JUSTICE

Palestinian gunmen, who identified themselves as members of Islamic Jihad, hold their weapons after executing a man in the West Bank. The man was accused of giving information to Israeli authorities.
Photo by Mohammed Ballas/AP



SOLAR SHOW

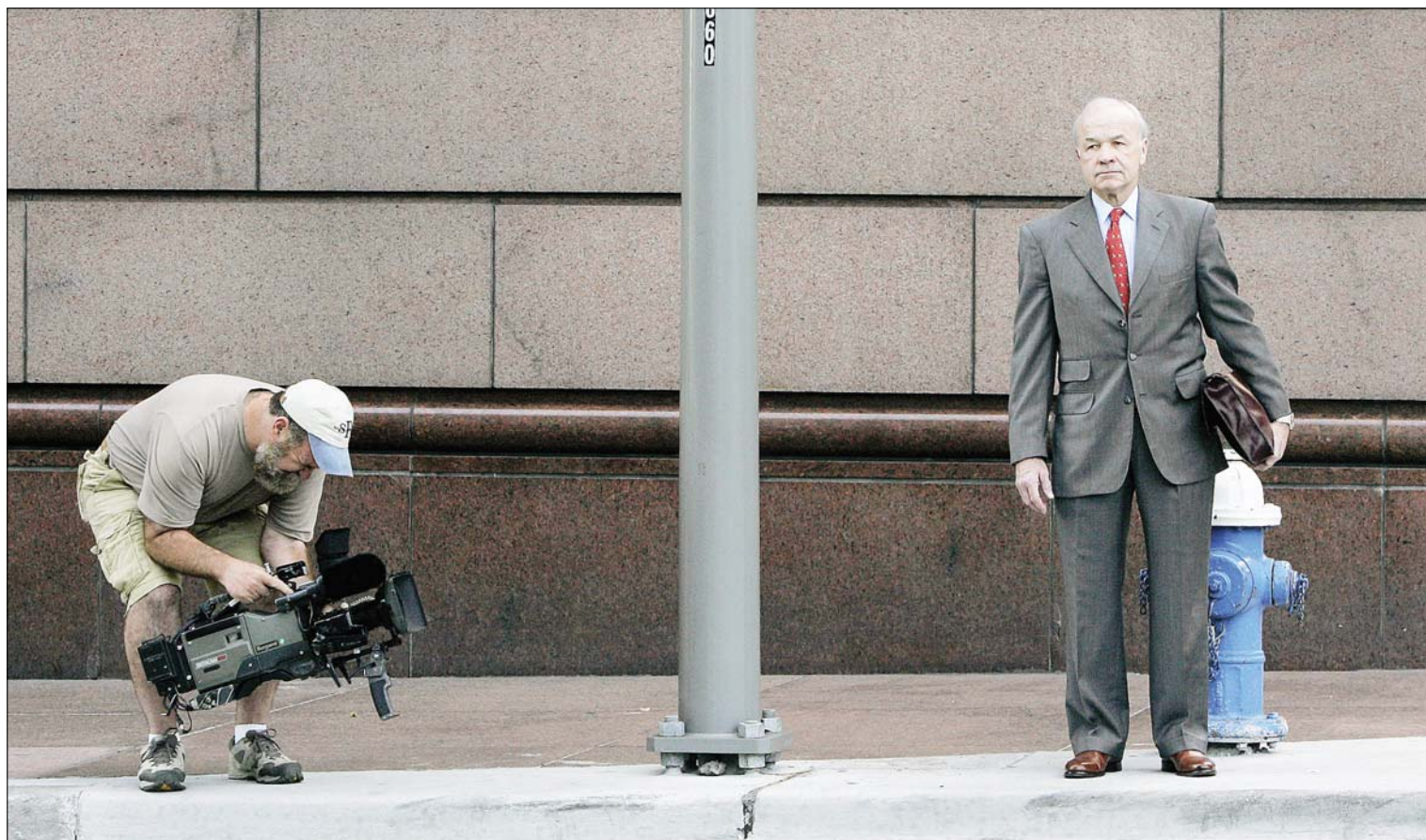
A group of schoolchildren use protective glasses to look at a solar eclipse in Accra, Ghana, in March. The first total eclipse in years provided a widely enjoyed solar event that swept the skies from Brazil to Mongolia.
Photo by Olivier Asselin/AP



CHAVEZ ON STAGE

Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez delivers a fiery speech at U.N. headquarters in New York in September. Chavez grabbed headlines by calling President Bush "the devil."
Photo by Julie Jacobson/AP

AFTERIMAGE 2006



ENRON'S LAST ACT

Enron founder Kenneth Lay stands outside a courthouse during his fraud and conspiracy trial in April. Lay was convicted but died before sentencing, stopping a federal effort to seek millions from his estate.

Photo by Pat Sullivan/AP



AMISH GRIEF

A group of Amish men wait at a police blockade near a one-room school house in Nickel Mines, Pa., in October after a man took a dozen girls hostage, killing five before committing suicide.

Photo by Ed Hille/AP



9/11 FIVE YEARS LATER

Mourners weep before the reflecting pool at Ground Zero in New York during ceremonies marking the fifth anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

Photo by David Handschuh/AFP/Getty Images



KATRINA'S LEGACY

Huge mounds of debris are seen at a waste disposal collection point in New Orleans in August, nearly one year after Hurricane Katrina devastated the area, killing nearly 2,000 and leaving 700 missing.

Photo by Alex Brandon/AP

AFTERIMAGE 2006



IRAQ WAR HITS HOME

Dave Rowe visits the grave of his son Michael Rowe with Michael's widow Rebecca at a Memorial Day service. In 2006 the number of U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq passed the number of people killed on Sept. 11. Photo by C.D. McGonigal/AP



POWER TO SHARE

House Speaker-elect Nancy Pelosi meets with President Bush after Democrats swept Congress in November, aided by a year of Republican scandals and the president's low approval ratings. Photo by Tim Sloan/AFP/Getty Images



TRAGEDY AT THE MINES

Miners' friends and families hold a memorial at the Sago Baptist Church in January for the 12 men who died in a mine explosion in Tallmansville, W.Va. One miner survived the blast, later ruled to be caused by lightning. Photo by Mark Wilson/Getty Images



MLK REMEMBERED

The Rev. Jesse Jackson hugs former Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young at the groundbreaking ceremony for the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial on the National Mall in November. Photo by Jason Reed/Pool

AFTERIMAGE 2006

**FLOOD FATIGUE**

Eisenhower Avenue in Alexandria shows the aftereffects of massive flooding, which struck the area in June. Engineers are still studying the city's ability to cope when the Potomac rises.

Photo by Gerald Martineau/TWP

**KNOW THE DRILL**

In September, regional fire departments staged the first-ever Metro terrorism drill under the Potomac River. Here, participants rest after playing victims of a bombing.

Photo by Robert A. Reeder/TWP

**SIGNS OF TROUBLE**

Protesters sign "I love you" in October after marching to the U.S. Capitol to demand that Gallaudet University ex-provost Jane K. Fernandes resign after being tapped as the next president of the school for the deaf.

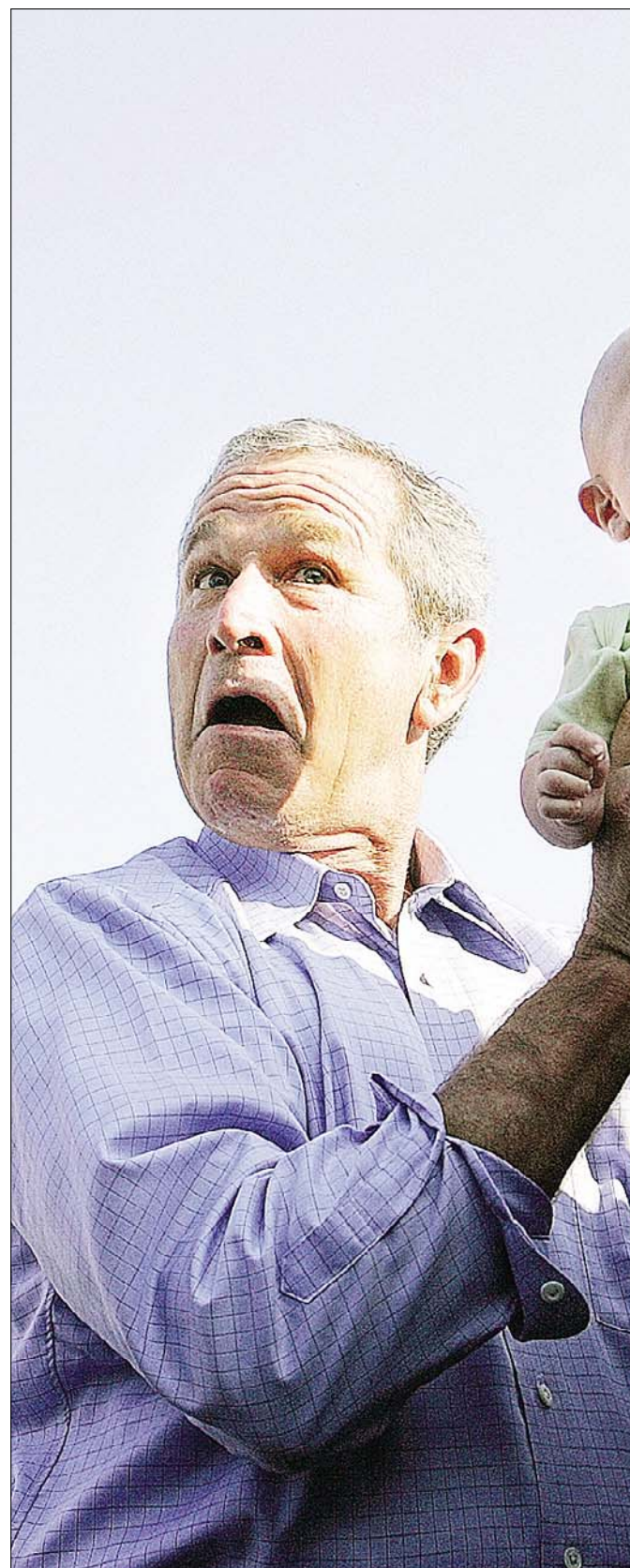
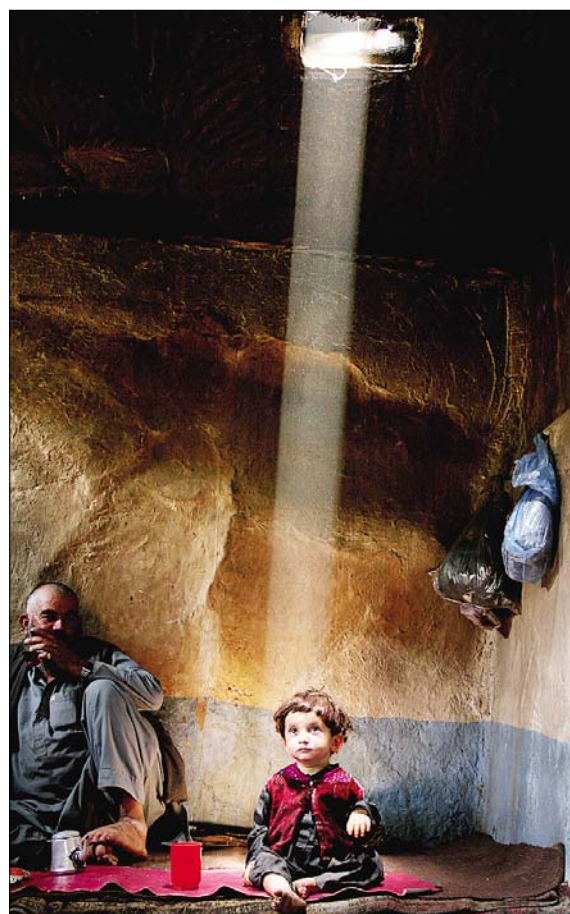
Photo by Marvin Joseph/TWP

**BEAR CARE**

Tai Shan, the National Zoo's giant panda cub, climbs a tree inside the Giant Panda Habitat and Asia Trail after the project's completion in October. The new space is larger and more like the animals' natural habitat.

Photo by Evan Vucci/AP

AFTERIMAGE 2006



PENGUINS MARCH

Tourists and journalists watch Magellanic penguins as they are set free July 31 after completing their rehabilitation following an oil spill in San Clemente del Tuyu, Argentina. Photo by Natacha Pisarenko/AP



KABUL MOMENTS

A girl rests as her father has lunch at an old tea shop in Kabul, Afghanistan. With Taliban militants staging a violent comeback, the country experienced its bloodiest year since the ouster of the regime in 2001. Photo by Rodrigo Abd/AP



LIFTING SPIRITS

Palestinians enjoy a ride at an amusement park outside Gaza City in March. After Hamas won legislative elections in January, an economic boycott worsened the Palestinian humanitarian situation, leaving many without a paycheck. Photo by Anja Niedringhaus/AP



BABYFACE

It was a tough year for President Bush. With the situation in Iraq deteriorating, the president's approval rating at home and abroad took hit new lows. Here, a baby erupts in tears being held by Bush during his trip to Germany in July. Photo by Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP

**SUMMERTIME BLUES**

Water splashes off the head of Calvin Sturdivant, 7, as he plays in a Philadelphia fountain. Broiling temperatures in the 90s and beyond gripped much of the country through July.

Photo by Matt Rourke/AP

**FALL GUYS**

Devotees of the Hindu god Krishna in Bombay, India, try to catch a falling comrade. The group formed a human pyramid to break a "Dahi Handi," a pot filled with yogurt, in a ritual to honor the god.

Photo by Gautam Singh/AP

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FILM
Beyond the 'Veil': Naomi Watts and Edward Norton play a troubled British couple in 1920s China in 'The Painted Veil.' | 29

Entertainment Weekend



PHOTO CREDIT

How we the people built and watched the Web site of the year

PASTIMES | Two-thousand-and-six was the year YouTube became culturally ubiquitous. Declared the invention of the year by Time magazine, the video-sharing Web site spawned countless explosive experiments involving Diet Coke and Mentos candies. Here are the most significant YouTube videos of the year:

1. THE FACE OF YOUTUBE: The cute, bedroom confessions of Lonelygirl15 remain the site's quintessential expression. The pretty high schooler named Bree was eventually revealed to be actress Jessica Lee Rose, who was acting out a scripted plot. But that strange duality of what's real and what's fiction remains the heart and soul of YouTube, where everybody and nobody is a star.

2. NETWORK WAKE-UP CALL: The mock-rap sketch "Lazy Sunday" from "Saturday Night Live" was, in some ways, what started the revolution. Chris Parnell and Andy Samberg's rhymes boosted the hipness of "SNL," but more importantly, it was the first time networks were alerted to their new competition.

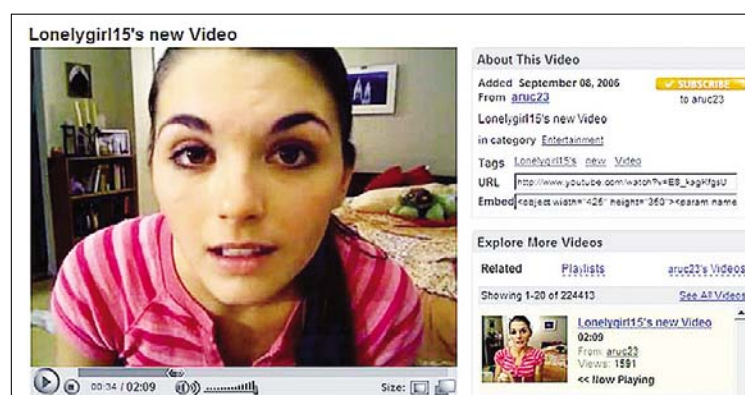
3. POLITICAL FALLOUT: Few would say Virginia Sen. George Allen didn't deserve his fate after a video of him calling a rival campaign staffer "macaca" drew clicks. Allen went on to lose an extremely close election. On the other end of

Smile! You're on YouTube

the spectrum, Michael J. Fox's tremulous campaign ads for Democratic candidates who support stem cell research proved powerful.

4. FLOUNDERING FOUNDERS: When Google bought YouTube for \$1.65 billion in October, YouTube founders Chad Hurley and Steve Chen posted a goofy video with a smirk that said, "We just became insanely rich." The site's video-posting community couldn't help thinking, "Didn't we do all the work?"

5. OK STOP: OK Go's video for "Here It Goes Again" was made in one long take with amateurish creativity. Their playfully choreographed treadmill dancing was the most absurdly graceful thing of the year: YouTube saved the video star.



AMATEUR HOUR: The unmasking of "Lonelygirl15" was the first YouTube scandal.

6. CELEBRITY SPY: Michael "Kramer" Richards' racist rant at the Laugh Factory in West Hollywood in November would have drawn headlines anyway, but would millions have seen it? We've all become trained at this point: If something happens — check YouTube.

7. NOT JUST TEENAGERS: A user named Peter who goes by the name geriatric1927 has become one of the biggest and likeliest stars of the YouTube community. The British 79-year-old is beloved for his "Telling it all" series of posts in which he warmly recalls his life

The smug YouTube founders hoist on their own video petard; OK Go's playful treadmill romp went viral in 2006.

stories, from his days as radar mechanic during WWII to his life as a motorcycle salesman.

8. DOCUMENT OF INJUSTICE

Footage of a police officer striking suspect William Cardenas in Hollywood, Calif., was viewed in court in September and a Superior Court commissioner ruled the officer's conduct was "more than reasonable." But after the video hit YouTube, it triggered an FBI investigation.

9. INTERNATIONAL COMPENDIUM:

YouTube compiles videos from around the world, making for a truly borderless repository of pop culture. In this environment, two art students in China — "Two Chinese Boys" — became internationally known for passionate lip-synching of Backstreet Boys songs.

10. STAR MAKER:

One of the most viewed, most discussed videos shows a slight figure, his face obscured by a baseball cap, playing electric guitar. Sounds typical? Except he's playing a rock arrangement of Pachelbel's Canon using a difficult technique called sweep picking. The guitarist was eventually revealed to be a 23-year-old Korean named Jeong-Hyun Lim, now known the world over. Some didn't find fame on purpose: Aleksey Vayner saw no humor in his boastful video application for

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Weekend Entertainment

Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

When bands from D.C. list their influences, the same few names usually get tossed around: Fugazi, Unrest, Minor Threat, Rare Essence, Bad Brains, Velocity Girl, Rites of Spring, Trouble Funk, Disemberment Plan. One band that never seems to receive enough love is the Slickee Boys, though their influence looms large in American popular music. The Slickees' career began more than 30 years ago, and the band's first record, "Hot and Cool," is considered one of the first new wave records released in America. Over the next 14 years, the band became a staple on the Washington club scene. Tunes like "Jailbait Janet" and "This Party Sucks" meld roaring guitars with shout-along choruses; "Girls Want to Be With Girls" rides a funky organ line and garage-rock chords; and the fizzing surf riff of "When I Go to the Beach" got the Slickees onto MTV in the early '80s. The Slickee Boys broke up in December 1990, shortly after being inducted into the Washington Area Music Association's Hall of Fame. They still gather once a year for a reunion show, though, and you'd never guess that they've taken so much time off. Don't believe us? Head to **IOTA**, where the Slickee Boys perform with Switchblade, another local band that gets short shrift in the history books.

A few years ago, we were fans of a night called Lemur Lounge at **CASABLANCA** in Old Town Alexandria. A cozy spot with good food, a relaxed vibe, comfy couches and a good-sized dance floor, LL managed to bring in some of the best house DJs in the area. The Lemurs stopped doing weekly parties at Casablanca in 2004, but local promoters still throw occasional events there. Tonight there's Festivus, a low-key pre-New Year's Eve party with DJs Aaron Lee (a Lemur Lounge vet), Keenan (ditto), Joe L. and Dimitri. Expect tons of funky breaks to get you up and moving. No cover, no dress code — just an end-of-the-holidays party.

The members of local bloggers-



CLASSIC: The Nighthawks vocalist, Mark Wenner, rocks harmonicas, tattoos.

cum-DJs collective Bluestate celebrate their second anniversary tonight at the **BLACK CAT**, but it's a bittersweet birthday: The four DJs are going their separate ways after one last no-cover party. Say farewell, then hit the dancefloor for a night of Britpop, indie rock, Swedepop, remixes and '80s classics. Doors are at 10 p.m. (Full disclosure: Our own Fritz Hahn has been a guest DJ at one of their events.)

SATURDAY

The end of the year is a great time for D.C. music geeks. Besides the annual Slickee Boys reunion, there are always other groups getting back together for a holiday show or two. Tonight, for example, the Rosslyn Mountain Boys are performing with the Nighthawks at the **STATE THEATRE**. The Rosslyn Mountain Boys formed in the mid-'70s, playing country-rock in the style of Gram



D.C.'s seminal punky new wavers the Slickee Boys back in the salad days.

Parsons and the Flying Burrito Brothers and the outlaw country sound so popular that decade. The group's self-titled 1977 debut promised much, but after a series of concerts with Tammy Wynette, Loretta Lynn, Conway Twitty and Buck Owens, they broke up. The original lineup is now back together, though, and performing a few times a year. Country music fans won't want to miss this one, and having the wonderfully greasy blues and harmonica-driven R&B of the Nighthawks on the bill is just icing on the cake.

SUNDAY

OK, it's New Year's Eve. We really don't care for this particular holiday. Why? Long lines, endless hype, overpriced tickets (are you REALLY going to drink \$100 worth of open-bar liquor?) and crowds of rowdy drunks who've decided to try to get their money's worth from the open bar. If you still want to attend a black-tie affair, your options are dwindling: A number of the big parties are sold out, like the Things to Do Soiree at the **WARDMAN PARK MARRIOTT** and the Big Night DC bash with Gonzo's Nose and JunkFood at the **WYNDHAM WASHINGTON**. Please see our huge list of parties at washingtonpost.com/nightlifeagenda for ideas in all price ranges and dress-code options.

An extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" is always available at washingtonpost.com/cityguide

Now Playing

APOCALYPTO (R, 135 minutes) Mel Gibson's new film is set in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula in vaguely pre-Columbian times, in that seemingly endless epoch when the mighty Mayan city-states ruled supreme. Our hero is one Jaguar Paw (brilliant Rudy Youngblood), of an indigenous forest people who live happy, simple lives. But one morning, the Mayas arrive in force. The results are not pretty. You can see where this is going, but that doesn't really prevent you from enjoying it immensely. (SH)

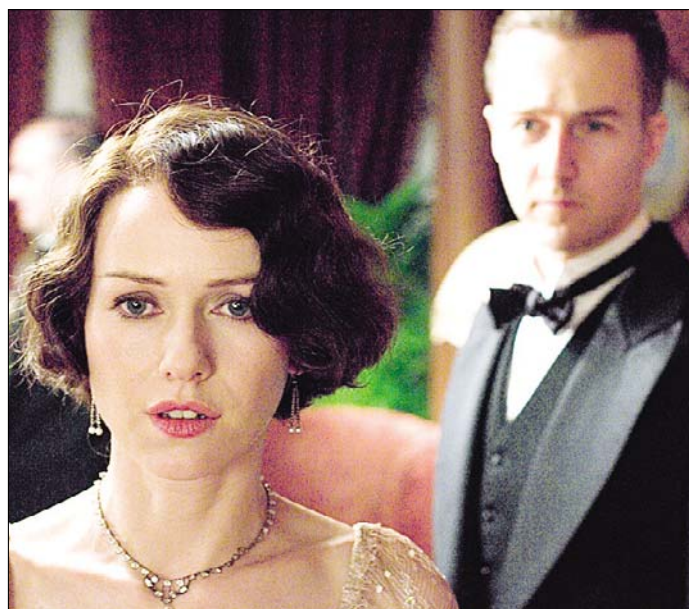
BABEL (R, 142 minutes) Director Alejandro González Iñárritu and writer Guillermo Arriaga tell multiple stories in multiple locations around the globe. Each tale is completely compelling on its own, and Iñárritu also proves superb at working with amateur actors. Yet as sophisticated a piece of filmmaking as it is, it seems hamstrung by the banality at its center and it never assembles into a satisfying whole. (SH)

BLOOD DIAMOND (R, 125 minutes) Pounding action, pulse-quickenning adventure and of-the-moment politics animate this mostly great thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio. He plays a smuggler named who finds himself a mercenary middleman between rebels in Sierra Leone and European diamond merchants. Things get out of hand during the last half-hour, but the movie is a gem. (AH)

BOBBY (R, 111 minutes) Emilio Estevez's ambitious, uneven and deeply affecting drama about the day Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated keeps the film's real subject on the margins of the story, instead conveying what the world looked and sounded and felt like the moment before it shattered. (AH)

BORAT: CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN (R, 89 minutes) Borat, played with seamless disingenuousness by Sacha Baron Cohen, has come to America to make a feature-length documentary for the people of his home country. As Borat cuts his wide and occasionally vicious swath, no petard goes unhoisted. It's a spectacle that delivers squeals, howls or at least low-level chuckles. The movie is a perfect combination of slapstick and satire. (AH)

CASINO ROYALE (PG-13, 140 minutes) Reinventing James Bond as a kind of Navy SEAL with an attitude problem, this movie turns out to be crack-



GLEN WILSON/AP

JUST LIKE MAUGHAM USED TO MAKE

A Cholerick Lover

"THE PAINTED VEIL" effectively blends highbrow literary pretension with powerful cinematic drama — an evocative, passionate romantic triangle set among Brits living in 1920s China. Adapted from W. Somerset Maugham's novel by screenwriter Ron Nyswaner, the story opens with a prologue in London, where spirited, well-to-do Kitty (Naomi Watts) accepts a marriage proposal from awkward but adoring Dr. Walter Fane (Edward Norton), a bacteriologist about to head back to his research work in Shanghai. In China, Kitty embarks on an affair with a British vice consul (Liev Schreiber). Walter reacts severely when he learns of her adultery, accepting a post in a remote, cholera-plagued village. With the horror of cholera all around, this is a grim, grim story. Yet with lost-soul earnestness, Watts carries the film. DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

ing good entertainment. Daniel Craig kicks major maximus as a Bond who'd never use a computer where a punch will do. And he is seemingly the first Bond to actually bleed. Half an hour too long and with too many villains, the movie nevertheless proves you seldom go wrong if you make a movie that leaves you stirred, not shaken. (SH)

CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G, 98 minutes) E.B. White's children's book starring Wilbur the curly-tailed runt, his human friend, Fern and spider Charlotte has been charming kids into bed forever. Those kids and their children can rest assured that the movie shares their reverence. The performers, at times, sound as if they're doing a casual read-through before the actual show — but their relaxed spirit is subtly satisfying. (DT)

CHILDREN OF MEN (R, 109 minutes) A loose adaptation of a P.D. James novel, "Children of Men" stars Clive Owen as Theo, a former political activist turned bureaucrat in 2027 London, a city that is the last outpost of the closest thing to civi-

lization in a world gripped by pandemics, environmental destruction and a worldwide immigration crisis. He is suddenly paid a visit by Julian (Julianne Moore), his former lover, and soon embarks on a countrywide chase in which the goal is nothing less than the survival of the human race. Alfonso Cuarón creates the most deeply imagined and fully realized world to be seen onscreen this year. (AP)

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R, 114 minutes) Zhang Yimou's film is a kind of feast, kitschy and grand at once. The great Chow Yun Fat plays the Emperor Ping, home from the wars at last, eager to lose himself in the bosom of his family. Except that everyone is busy plotting against one another. The emperor's wife (Gong Li) has a grudge against him: He's slowly killing her with poison. The movie substitutes spectacle for emotional intimacy, and Chow has been better. But that all but concedes the film to Gong, who gives a grand, operatic performance. (SH)

DECK THE HALLS (PG, 95 minutes) A

Continued on page 30

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Continued from page 29

wimpy WASP (Matthew Broderick) is the Xmas czar of his annoyingly picturesque town and feels he is entitled to govern Christmas; a lower-class usurper (Danny DeVito) seeks to take over the holiday and turn his house into an Armageddon of blazing lights. I literally did not count a single laugh in the whole aimless schlep. (SH)

DEJA VU (PG-13, 128 minutes) ATF agent Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) goes back in time to unravel a crime. The movie attempts to explain the "science" behind the movie's time-jumping, but in a drama that's contemporary and supposedly realistic, it comes off as cockamamie. (DT)

THE DEPARTED (R, 149 minutes) A deranged wit runs through this film, which finds Martin Scorsese up to his same old tricks of exploring an American ethnic subculture with frequent detours into carnage and mayhem. Scorsese plumbs the colorful depths of the Irish mob in Boston. The movie crackles right along, stopping only for Scorsese's signature bursts of explosive violence. (AH)

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13, 131 minutes) "Dreamgirls" arrives with more than



NIGHT OF THE LIVING FIGURINES: In "Museum," Ben Stiller's in up to his eyebrows.

its share of baggage; the hit Broadway musical, which opened in 1981, is such a cherished icon that it's taken 25 years for it to be made into a movie. But even with Jennifer Hudson's triumphant arrival and an overall fizzy mood of singing, dancing, pop nostalgia and camp, "Dreamgirls" is an uneven crowd pleaser. With a promising director (Bill Condon, who wrote "Chicago") and a dazzling cast that includes Beyonce Knowles, Jamie

Foxx and Eddie Murphy, the movie not only looks good on paper; it looks great on-screen, too. But it also often sags when it should sparkle, lags when it should go lickety-split and plays it safe when, like Hudon's Effie, it should sell it to the cheap seats. (AH)

ERAGON (PG, 99 minutes) In the gorgeous middle earth that is Alagaesia, the evil Galbatorix (John Malkovich) has destroyed all the dragon riders and taken over. Meanwhile, a young beauty played dimly by Sienna Guillory escapes from his castle with the last dragon egg, which she manages to deliver to farm boy-archer Eragon, fated to be the new dragon rider. After the bad acting by the slumming great actors, the next best thing in the picture is the dragon. (SH)

FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS (R, 132 minutes) The flag-raising on Iwo Jima was a real event that became a pseudo-event, the engine to a huge marketing machine. That process is the center of this heartbreaking and sobering film by Clint Eastwood. This film is passionate, honest, unflinching and gripping. (SH)

FLUSHED AWAY (PG, 87 minutes) This first computer-generated cartoon by Aardman Animations—best known for

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FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (PG-13, 86 minutes) In this send-up of Hollywood,



GLOBAL WARNING: Clive Owen and Julianne Moore impress with "Children of Men."

Christopher Guest has enlisted his usual repertory players as various artists and apparatchiks working on a small film called "Home for Purim." When the indie production gets a little online buzz, suddenly everyone has visions of Oscar dancing in their heads. The movie is full of observant comedy, but things take a nasty turn in the film's bilious third act. (AH)

THE GOOD GERMAN (R, 110 minutes) George Clooney plays Jake, a war correspondent and former Berlin AP bureau chief, now a two-fisted New Republic columnist. He arrives in Berlin ostensibly to cover the Potsdam Conference, but really to find his old squeeze. Director Steven

Continued on page 32

"HAUNTING AND HYPNOTIC, IT'S PURE MOVIE-GOING BLISS."

-Peter Travers, **ROLLING STONE**



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Weekend Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 31

Soderbergh's idea was to take a recent thriller set in the 1940s and make it as a '40s picture. But the movie lies there as if on a slab in a morgue, while you admire the corpse for its beauty. (SH)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R, 157 minutes) Edward Wilson (Matt Damon) is from one of those old families—the ones that knew everybody, got the best jobs and knew which wine went with which course. The thrust of the film is his journey to becoming a Central Intelligence Agency player

of the '60s, but his investigation stops to wander through history, tracking what may be Edward's growth or his damnation. The movie is serious adult movie-making from director Robert De Niro, a man deeply interested in the art, craft and psychology of espionage. (SH)

HAPPY FEET (PG, 98 minutes) Anyone watching this computer-animated flick about an adorable tap-dancing penguin named Mumble is going to, well, flip. Mumble (Elijah Wood) realizes he can't sing, let alone come up with the special "heart song" every able-bodied penguin needs to attract a mate. But the croaky fuzz ball sure can hoof. The movie's terrific songs are a warm cushion of



IN FILM, AS IN LIFE: Dreamy Beyoncé Knowles, right, plays one of the "Dreamgirls."

DAVID JAMES/DREAMWORKS PICTURES

welcome. (DT)

THE HISTORY BOYS (R, 104 minutes) The sentimental subject of this movie is a group of eight boys at a secondary school in England who have done so well on their exams that all have qualified as finalists for Oxford or Cambridge. The actors in all the major roles are hold-overs from the stage version, which playwright Alan Bennett adapted for the screen. They modulate their performance admirably, even if the film is not quite as engaging as the play. (PETER MARKS)

THE HOLIDAY (PG-13, 131 minutes) This overproduced romantic comedy doesn't even qualify as fluff; it's featureless plastic. Cameron Diaz and Kate Winslet play two professionals who are romantic failures.

The result is an interminable, unromantic series of setups and payoffs. (AH)

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R, 121 minutes) This film concerns the flamboyant African despot Idi Amin, said to have been responsible for the murder of 300,000 of his fellow Ugandans during the '70s. The movie uses a fictional device to get up close and personal, but Amin, representing a human extreme, is so much more interesting than his witness, a young Scottish doctor. (SH)

LITTLE CHILDREN (R, 130 minutes) In this movie, the arrival of a convicted child

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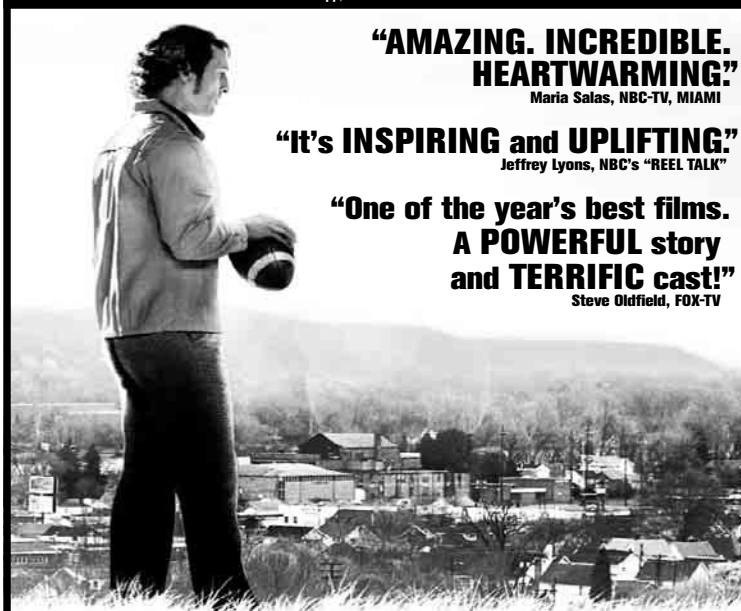
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"THIS HOLIDAY SEASON'S 'DON'T-MISS MOVIE.'"

Sarah Zapp, THE COMCAST NETWORK



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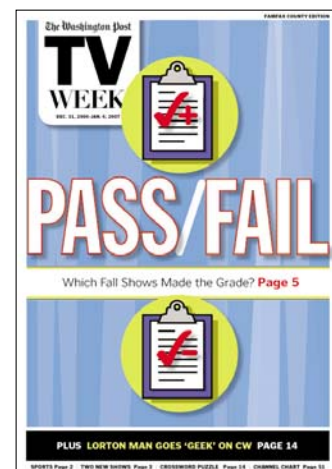
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Sunday in The Washington Post



The 'Ugly' Truth: The 2006 fall-season fallout comes with good news for some, like "Ugly Betty" and "Heroes" and a big fat F for other series. | *TV Week*

The Year in Funny: Dave Barry takes a look back at the year's jokes that misfired, missiles that got fired and ideas that bombed. | *The Washington Post Magazine*



WE'RE ALL WINNERS: "Marshall" wins hearts faster than you can chant "Rudy"!

Now Playing

molester in East Wyndam, Mass., triggers outrage throughout the community. But Ronnie the pedophile (Jackie Earle Haley) is practically one of the good guys. The film is a hugely absorbing social drama that is, by turns, excruciating, sad and sardonic. (DT)

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R, 101 minutes) Throw a quirky family in a broken-down, yellow VW bus en route from Albuquerque to Redondo Beach, Calif., so that 7-year-old Olive (Abigail Breslin) can compete for the dubious title of Little Miss Sunshine. What happens when the family actually makes it to the pageant is sad, sweet, enlightening and really, really funny. (JENNIFER FREY)

LIVE AND BECOME (Unrated, 140 minutes) Ethiopian Jews and their repatriation to the Holy Land is the political context for Radu Mihaileanu's mostly affecting story of an Ethiopian boy who becomes an accidental part of that communal history. (DT)

THE NATIVITY STORY (PG, 102 minutes) To its credit, this film, directed by Catherine Hardwicke, puts the virgin birth in its proper personal and historical context. But Hardwicke plays it safe, duly hitting the familiar marks and trotting out the familiar tropes. (AH)

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG, 108 minutes) Ben Stiller plays Larry Daley, a divorced dad who finds work at New York's Museum of Natural History. At night, all the stuffed animals, dioramas and mannequins—even the Tyrannosaurus rex skeleton in the front hall—come to life and run amok. The plot thickens, but the movie is mostly all about those eye-popping scenes of lions, zebras, Civil War soldiers and Sacagawea committing sundry acts of

mayhem and mischief. (AH)

THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13, 117 minutes) This movie is the biography of a real guy named Christopher Gardner, whom Will Smith, charming and bright, embodies to the fingertips. He is a salesman who ends up on the streets—with his son. The movie is almost devised like a rat-in-maze experiment. Every few minutes, some new obstacle comes up for Chris, at which point the film stands back and watches him improvise. (SH)

THE QUEEN (PG-13, 99 minutes) England's constitutional irony is the chilly but entertaining subtext of Stephen Frears' tragicomedy. The crisis begins in late August 1997, when Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) learns of Princess Diana's death. Mirren's finely calibrated performance reveals a complex woman coping with a bewildering world. (DT)

ROCKY BALBOA (PG, 98 minutes) There's Sylvester Stallone again, sucking down raw eggs and pounding sides of beef to train for another prime-time bout. It feels like the first fight all over again, and suddenly a silly little movie built entirely on classic hokum seems to matter. Not just because it's one last roundhouse punch at the world of digital zeros and ones. It matters because this boxer taps into the hope that one day we're going to win big, too, after everyone has given up on us. (DT)

STRANGER THAN FICTION (PG-13, 105 minutes) Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) keeps hearing a voice in his head. It belongs to Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson), an English writer who just happens to be writing a novel about a character named Harold Crick, who she plans to kill off. Unfortunately, the filmmakers seem to have their minds on some other movie. (DT)

TENACIOUS D IN THE PICK OF DESTINY

(R, 93 minutes) Jack Black and Kyle Gass hit the big screen with mixed success, depending on the age, gender and degree of inebriation of the filmgoer. The movie is really an excuse for extended scatological gags, in-joke cameos and self-referential songs. (AH)

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG, 89 minutes) Children of divorce are resourceful types, we learn in this movie, a gently toned but ultimately trifling caper set in an airport where six preteens find themselves stranded, snowbound and parent-

less over Christmas Eve. (DT)

VOLVER (R, 121 minutes) Penélope Cruz plays a beleaguered Madrid homemaker at the center of Pedro Almodóvar's warmly seductive movie. She plays Raimunda, an airport cleaner whose quiet heroics take place at home, and she's a subtle revelation. Raimunda's courage is just as compelling as she contends with murder, adultery, incest and beyond-the-grave visits from her mother. (DT)

WE ARE MARSHALL (PG, 125 minutes) As the world's biggest sucker

for uplifting jock movies, I can heartily endorse the skillfully manipulative movie, which recounts a West Virginia university's ordeal by tragedy. Matthew McConaughey plays the go-getting leader, and the movie is swift and generally effective. (SH)



REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER DESSON THOMSON AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS SEE THE WASHINGTON POST WEEKEND SECTION.

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DAVID ANSEN, NEWSWEEK

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REX REED, THE NEW YORK OBSERVER

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APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(110 420) 735 1100
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1250 400) 715 1025
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(1100) 1020
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(1100) 1020

POTOMAC YARD STADIUM 16

3575 Jefferson Davis Hwy 800-FANDANGO 690#

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★	(1230 100 130 335 405 435) 640 710
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(130) 415 720 1000 1230
BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(115 350) 620 845 1110
OC & DA: WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(1255) 355 655 955
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★	(1140 150 220 440 510) 720
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1135 210 445) 730 1005
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1110 120 200 430 500) 725
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1115 155 425) 650 920
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1115 145 415) 645 915
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG	(1210 350) 700 1035
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(110 420) 735 1100
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1250 400) 715 1025
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(1100) 1020
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(1100) 1020

FAIRFAX TOWNE CENTER 10

4110 W Ox Road 800-FANDANGO 670#

ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1130 200 430) 700 945
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1210 240 510) 750 1020
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1100 120 250 450) 725 1010
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1115 145 300 420 530) 645 800 920
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1150 1230 220 450) 720 950 1025
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) DIG	(1140 250 520) 745 1010
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) DIG	(1120 155 410) 710 1015
DEJA VU (PG-13) DIG	(1200 310) 630 955
BABEL (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1200 310) 630 955

GERMANTOWN STADIUM 14

20000 Century Blvd 800-FANDANGO 455#

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1215 245 530) 800 1030
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★	(1030 1130 115 200 400 445)
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1030 115 415) 730 1040
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1130 315) 700 1035
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(1245 415) 715 1015
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1140 230 345 530) 730 815
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1140 220 500) 750 1040
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1000 1245 345) 645 940
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) DIG	(1030) 1030
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG	(1245 400) 710 1020
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1230) 1020
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(100 420) 720 1045
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) DIG	(1135 210 445) 720 1000
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(1100) 945
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(1045 120 410) 655

UA SNOWDEN SQ STADIUM 14

9161 Commerce Ctr Dr 800-FANDANGO 570#

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★	(1230 415) 745 1045
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1105 250) 630 1010
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★	(1115 1215 145 245 430 530)
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(100 415) 715 1015
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1130 215 445) 730 1015
OC & DA: PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1130) 1030
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1100 200 430) 745 1030
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1100 130 400) 645 930
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(200 445) 730 1045
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG	(1230 345) 645 945
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1215 315) 700 1005
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1245 345) 700 1000
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(115 500) 800 1100
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(1100 130 400) 800 1030

MANASSAS STADIUM 13

11380 Bulloch Drive 800-FANDANGO 490#

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1215 240 500) 800 1020
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1120 255) 630 1000
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★	(1135 1230 215 325 455) 700
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(1220 320) 645 940
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1125 200 435) 750 1030
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1200 230 505) 755 1015
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1145 225 455) 735 1000
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1155 1240 250 335) 640
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) DIG	(1115) 710 1015
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG	(1250 350) 650 1005
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(925) 925
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(125 425) 725 1025
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) DIG	(1140 205 430) 740 1005
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(945) 945
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(100 400) 705

BOWIE STADIUM 14

15200 Major Lansdale Blvd 800-FANDANGO 454#

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1205 235 510) 755 1015
DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★	(1245 130 400 500) 730 810 1030
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1200 330) 700 1030
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★	(1130 230 515) 800 1030
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(115 445) 745 1045
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1200 245 515) 820 1050
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1215 300 530) 800 1045
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1135 205 430) 700
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(100 415) 745 810 1035 1100
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) DIG	(1135) 930
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG	(1245 350) 710 1015
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1135) 1035
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(240) 710
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) DIG	(1145 230 530) 805
DEJA VU (PG-13) DIG	(1025) 1025
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(1145 220 500)

BETHESDA 10

7272 Wisconsin Avenue 800-FANDANGO 569#

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1110 300) 700 1030
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★	(1100 140 420) 730 1000
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(1220 340) 645 950
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1120 210 445) 745 1025
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1115 145 400) 655 940
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1130 200 430) 650 930
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1150 320) 740 1020
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(720) 1020
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG	(1220 330) 725 1030
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1015) 1015
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(1200 350) 710
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(1100 150 440)

ROCKVILLE CENTER STADIUM 13

Rockville Town Center 800-FANDANGO 248#

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13) DIG ★	(130 425) 730 1035
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) DIG ★	(1200 150 235 430 510) 710
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(745 945 1025 1215)
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(1205 330) 700 1030
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) DIG	(130 420) 720 1020
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) DIG	(1145 215 445) 730 1010 1240
ERAGON (PG) DIG	(1140 210 450) 735 1000 1225
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) DIG	(1200 220 440) 705 925 1150
PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG-13) DIG	(1115 415) 715 955 1235
THE HOLIDAY (PG-13) DIG	(100 410) 710 1020
APOCALYPTO (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(500) 1100
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) - ID REQ'D DIG	(205 505) 800 1110
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) DIG	(1155 230) 750
CASINO ROYALE (PG-13) DIG	(1000) 1000
HAPPY FEET (PG) DIG	(1155 230 500) 730

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AMC HOFFMANN CENTER 22

Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:35, 3:15, 5:55, 8:25, 11:05
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (11:25 @ \$5), 12:10, 3:10, 5:30, 7:00, 7:55, 10:35, 11:35
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (11:00, 11:45 @ \$5), 1:45, 2:30, 4:30, 5:15, 7:15, 8:00, 9:55, 10:40, 12:45
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (11:45 @ \$5), 2:30, 5:15, 8:00, 10:40
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:00 @ \$5), 1:05, 4:25, 7:40, 10:45
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (11:00 @ \$5), 12:00, 1:45, 2:45, 4:35, 5:35, 7:15, 8:15, 10:45
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (11:05, 11:40 @ \$5), 1:35, 2:20, 4:10, 4:50, 6:40, 9:15
ERAGON (PG) 12:30, 3:00, 4:40, 5:40, 7:25, 8:20, 9:45, 10:45, 12:10
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:15, 11:15 @ \$5), 12:20, 2:10, 4:15, 5:05, 8:20, 7:10, 8:10, 9:05, 10:05, 11:05, 12:00
APOCALYPTO (R) 3:25, 7:30, 12:55
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (10:20 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:55, 8:05, 11:20
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 12:20, 3:40, 6:50, 9:55
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) (10:35 @ \$5), 1:05
DEJA VU (PG13) 9:45 PM, 12:40 AM
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) (10:00 @ \$5), 1:10, 4:20, 10:55
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:10 @ \$5), 12:50, 3:35
THE DEPARTED (R) 7:20, 10:35

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:15, 1:15, 3:30, 4:30, 6:45, 7:45, 10:00, 11:00, 1:00
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) (11:30 @ \$5), 2:00

AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

Loisdale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) (10:45 @ \$4), 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:40
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 12:00, 3:25, 6:50, 10:15
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:00 @ \$4), 12:25, 2:55, 5:25, 8:00, 10:30
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:30 @ \$4), 1:15, 4:20, 7:15, 10:15
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (10:50 @ \$4), 1:20, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:25 @ \$4), 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
ERAGON (PG) (10:30 @ \$4), 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:20 @ \$4), 1:00, 4:10, 7:20, 10:00
APOCALYPTO (R) 6:50, 9:50
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 12:30, 3:45, 7:00, 10:10
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:40 @ \$4), 1:00, 4:10

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin
202-537-9553

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) / (12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) / (10:00 @ \$5), 12:10, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
ERAGON (PG) 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
ERAGON (PG) (10:30 @ \$5), 12:15, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:20 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:35, 7:15, 9:55
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 12:30, 3:40, 6:40, 9:45
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (10:30 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:35, 10:30
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (10:30 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:30

LOEWS GEORGETOWN 14

3111 K Street, N.W.
202-342-6441

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) / (11:30 @ \$6), 3:05, 6:45, 10:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) / (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55, 12:20
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) / 1:15, 4:15, 7:25, 10:25
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) / 12:05, 2:35, 5:05, 7:45, 10:20
ERAGON (PG) 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:00, 12:20
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:35 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:50
APOCALYPTO (R) (10:35 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 10:55
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 12:45, 4:00, 7:10, 10:15
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 12:40, 3:45, 6:50, 10:05
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:50, 8:05, 11:15

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) / (10:30 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R) / (11:40 @ \$6), 2:25, 5:15, 7:55, 10:40
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) / (10:30 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:15, 10:45
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) / (11:10 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40

LOEWS LEXINGTON PARK 6

21882 FDR Boulevard
301-862-5000

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:00 @ \$4), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:30 @ \$4), 1:20, 4:15, 7:15, 10:00
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:15 @ \$4), 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 10:00
ERAGON (PG) (11:15 @ \$4), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:30 @ \$4), 2:15, 5:00, 7:45, 10:20
APOCALYPTO (R) 6:45, 9:45
HAPPY FEET (PG) (11:00 @ \$4), 1:30, 4:05

AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18

2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) / (10:10 @ \$5), 12:30, 2:55, 5:20, 7:55, 10:30
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) / (10:45, 11:45 @ \$5), 2:30, 3:15, 6:15, 7:00, 9:55, 10:40
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (11:45 @ \$5), 3:15, 7:00, 10:40
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) / (10:20, 10:55 @ \$5), 1:00, 1:45, 3:45, 4:30, 6:30, 7:15, 9:15, 10:00
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) / (10:25 @ \$5), 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:35
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) / (10:00 @ \$5), 12:25, 2:50, 5:35, 8:10, 10:45
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:05, 11:30 @ \$5), 12:25, 1:50, 2:45, 4:20, 5:05, 7:00, 9:20
ERAGON (PG) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:15, 4:50, 7:35, 10:00
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:10 @ \$5), 2:10, 5:05, 7:05, 8:05, 9:50, 11:00
APOCALYPTO (R) 12:50, 4:00, 7:10, 10:10
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 7:30, 10:50
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:55, 3:55, 7:10, 10:20
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) (11:50 @ \$5), 2:20, 4:55
DEJA VU (PG13) 7:25, 10:25
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) 7:40, 10:55
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:05, 2:40, 5:15

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) / (10:15, 11:00 @ \$5), 1:15, 2:05, 4:15, 5:00, 7:15, 8:00, 10:15, 11:00
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:55, 4:25

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14

10300 Patuxent Parkway
410-423-0520

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) (11:55 @ \$5), 2:15, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (11:00 @ \$5), 2:40, 6:20, 9:55
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (11:00 @ \$5), 2:40, 6:20, 9:55
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (11:20 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:15 @ \$5), 1:05, 4:05, 7:00, 10:20
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:20, 5:10, 8:00, 10:40
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:20 @ \$5), 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:25, 10:55
ERAGON (PG) (10:30 @ \$5), 12:55, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:30 @ \$5), 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 9:20, 11:00
APOCALYPTO (R) 7:15, 10:20
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 12:20, 3:35, 6:40, 9:45
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (10:25 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:25, 7:30, 10:35
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:15
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) 6:30, 9:40
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:40 @ \$5), 1:20, 3:55, 6:35

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:10 @ \$5), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10
THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) (11:35 @ \$5), 2:25, 4:50

LOEWS FAIRFAX SQUARE 8

8065 Leesburg Pike
703-506-9857 802

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 1:30, 5:00, 8:30
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) 2:10, 4:05, 6:20, 8:50
DEJA VU (PG13) 1:10, 3:45, 6:30, 9:20
HAPPY FEET (PG) 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50
BORAT (R) 6:50, 9:10
THE DEPARTED (R) 12:50, 3:55, 6:55, 9:55

AMC SELECT

THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) 1:50, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00
BABEL (R) 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50
THE QUEEN (PG13) 2:00, 4:30

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 12:05, 3:25, 6:45, 10:05
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:50, 4:20, 6:50, 9:20
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:05 @ \$5), 12:55, 3:45, 6:45, 9:50
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 10:00
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:20, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
ERAGON (PG) (10:10 @ \$5), 12:25, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:00, 2:00, 4:05, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45, 10:45
APOCALYPTO (R) 12:40, 3:40
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 6:40, 9:40
DEJA VU (PG13) 7:25, 10:20
HAPPY FEET (PG) (9:55 @ \$5), 12:15, 2:35, 5:00

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:30 @ \$5), 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30

LOEWS DUPONT 5

1350 19th St.
1-800-FANDANGO #711

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
BOBBY (R) (11:10 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:45, 7:45, 10:20
THE HISTORY BOYS (R) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:45, 4:30, 7:30, 10:10
BABEL (R) 1:00, 4:15, 7:15, 10:20
LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R) (11:20 @ \$5), 2:10, 5:00, 8:00, 10:15

LOEWS UPTOWN 1

3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W.
1-800-FANDANGO #713

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:00 @ \$5), 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:40

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) (10:00 @ \$5), 1:00, 4:15, 7:30, 10:40

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) / (10:10 @ \$6), 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10:05, 12:20
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) / 12:10, 3:45, 7:25, 11:00
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) / (10:40 @ \$6), 12:00, 1:15, 2:35, 4:00, 5:20, 6:45, 8:15, 9:25, 10:50, 12:00
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) / (10:45 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:45, 7:50, 10:45
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) / (10:00 @ \$6), 12:25, 1:30, 2:50, 5:30, 7:00, 8:10, 10:40, 12:15
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:05 @ \$6), 12:30, 3:00, 5:40, 8:05, 10:25
ERAGON (PG) (10:00 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:40, 5:25, 7:55, 10:35
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:45 @ \$6), 12:05, 2:50, 4:05, 5:35, 8:30, 9:35, 11:20
APOCALYPTO (R) (10:10 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (10:15 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:25, 7:40, 10:50
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) (10:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) (10:20 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:35, 7:45, 10:55

AMC SELECT

DREAMGIRLS (PG13) / (10:05, 11:30 @ \$6), 1:05, 2:30, 4:15, 5:45, 7:15, 8:50, 10:30, 11:50

AMC RIVERTOWNE 12

Exit 4A I-95, 1/2 mi. on Oxon Hill Rd.
703-998-4AMC

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) / (11:05 @ \$4), 1:50, 4:40, 7:15, 10:00
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) / (11:20 @ \$4), 3:00, 6:30, 10:00
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) / 12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) / (10:30 @ \$4), 1:30, 4:25, 7:35, 10:40
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (10:35 @ \$4), 1:25, 4:35, 7:40, 10:20
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:30 @ \$4), 1:20, 4:15, 7:30, 10:10
ERAGON (PG) (10:40 @ \$4), 1:30, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (11:00 @ \$4), 12:30, 1:45, 3:45, 4:45, 6:45, 7:45, 10:00, 10:45
APOCALYPTO (R) 7:50, 10:30
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 12:30, 3:50, 7:05, 10:15
UNACCOMPANIED MINORS (PG) (11:10 @ \$4), 1:50, 4:30
DEJA VU (PG13) 7:20, 10:30
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:50 @ \$4), 1:50, 4:50

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) / (10:05 @ \$5), 12:30, 2:45, 5:20, 7:45, 9:50
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) / (10:30 @ \$5), 12:00, 12:50, 2:30, 3:15, 5:00, 5:40, 7:30, 8:10, 10:00, 10:30
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) / (10:25 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:20, 7:20, 10:15
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:15, 2:25, 4:45, 7:05, 9:25
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:40 @ \$5), 12:10, 1:20, 2:35, 4:00, 5:10, 6:55, 7:40, 9:35, 10:20

AMC SELECT

THE NATIVITY STORY (PG) (10:10 @ \$5), 12:40, 2:50, 5:05
BABEL (R) 7:35, 10:25

LOEWS SHIRLINGTON 7

2772 South Randolph
703-671-0910 801

AMC SELECT

THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND (R) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R) (11:50 @ \$5), 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
THE HISTORY BOYS (R) (11:20 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:10, 7:10, 9:30
BABEL (R) (11:00 @ \$5), 1:50, 5:00, 8:00
VOLVER (R) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:50
THE QUEEN (PG13) (11:10 @ \$5), 1:20, 3:50, 7:00, 9:10
LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE (R) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:00, 4:50, 7:20, 9:20

AMC COUNTRY CLUB MALL 6

Country Club Mall on Vocke Rd near Route 68.
301-729-6633

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:00 @ \$4), 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (10:00 @ \$4), 12:30, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (10:20 @ \$4), 1:00, 3:20, 5:50, 8:00, 10:15
ERAGON (PG) (10:10 @ \$4), 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:45, 10:05
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:30 @ \$4), 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNESS (PG13) (10:30 @ \$4), 1:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:55
APOCALYPTO (R) 10:05 PM
DECK THE HALLS (PG) (10:20 @ \$4), 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45

LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5

North Bethesda
1-800-FANDANGO #741

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (11:45 @ \$4), 3:00, 6:25, 9:45
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 12:0

Television



HANDSOME CAMEO: ABC's "George Lopez" could use a boost if it's to keep viewers while other old-school sitcoms perish, so the series is borrowing some heat from pin-up boxer Oscar de la Hoya. The "Golden Boy" has played himself on "The Simpsons" and "Mad TV."

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

YOU HAVE TWO CHOICES: SERIES MARATHONS ...

Marathons abound as 2006 ticks down. Bravo takes the trend to the limit, offering a 10-hour opportunity to catch up with **FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS** on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Bravo is owned by NBC, and the Peacock Network has high hopes for the critically acclaimed, ratings-challenged, documentary-style series about a small Texas town consumed by high school football.

Bravo also airs a marathon of **SIX FEET UNDER** on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is perfect New Year's Eve television. After all, nothing so concentrates the mind on planning for the future than the prospect of having no future at all.

If that's too heavy for you, check out

the six-hour **HEE HAW** marathon (5 p.m., Sunday, CMT). This series ran from 1969 to 1991 on network and in syndication, mixing brazenly corny jokes with performances by country's biggest stars, including Conway Twitty, Dolly Parton and Ray Charles.

Viewers can watch **LAW & ORDER: SPECIAL VICTIMS UNIT** all day begin-



Watch Mariska Hargitay sneer at poor decorating choices for hours on end.

ning at 6 a.m. on Sunday on USA. The Family Channel will air 11 episodes of **UGLY BETTY** (Sun., 9 a.m.). AMC is feeling lucky, spending all of Sunday with Clint Eastwood movies.

And it simply wouldn't be New Year's Eve without Sci Fi's **TWILIGHT ZONE** marathon, airing from 9 a.m. Sunday to 6 a.m., Tuesday. One more chance to see Talking Tina take on Telly Savalas.

... OR NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIALS
DICK CLARK'S NEW YEAR'S ROCKIN' EVE 2007 (Sun., 10 p.m., ABC) celebrates its 35th year of ringing in the New Year with contemporary music acts. Accompanied by "American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest, Clark will preside over 2006's dwindling moments from New York's Times Square to the accompaniment of music by Christina Aguilera, Rascal Flatts, Fergie, Natasha Bedingfield, Meat Loaf and Latin music phenomenon RBD. "Rockin' New

Year's Eve" will also feature a performance from the Broadway musical "Jersey Boys," inspired by Essex County natives Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Not to be outdone, NBC, MSNBC, CNBC and Bravo will join forces to simulcast **NBC'S NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH CARSON DALY** (Sun., 11:30 p.m.), also from New York's Times Square. Featured musical acts include Panic! At the Disco.

Cat Deeley, British TV personality and host of the summer series "So You Think You Can Dance," will preside over the **NEW YEAR'S EVE SPECIAL** (Sun., 11 p.m., Fox). Musical acts include Toni Braxton and "Idol" star Chris Daughtry with his band, Daughtry.

MTV GOES GOLD: NEW YEAR'S EVE 2007 (Sun., 11 p.m.) will feature live performances by Gwen Stefani, Nas, Pussycat Dolls, Ciara and others.

And as if to prove that everybody is



GET HAPPY: Is it just us, or is there something disturbing going on here?

a potential Dick Clark, CNN news personality Anderson Cooper will host that network's New Year's Eve coverage live from New York (11 p.m., Sunday) and host musical acts from a variety of cities. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.29.06	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC [4] News [6]	WTTG [5] Seinfeld [6]	WJLA [7] News [6]	WUSA [9] News [6]	WDCA [20] Scrubs [1] [6]	WMPT [22] The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	WETA [26] BBC World News	WHUT [32] White House	WDCW [50] My Wife and Kids			
		The Simpsons [1]	ABC Wild News	Evening News	Scrubs [1] [6]	Business Rpt.	Business Rpt.	Tavis Smiley [1]	My Wife and Kids			
		The Simpsons [1]	Wheel of Fortune	News	Judge Joe Brown	State Circle	Washington Week	BBC World News	Friends [1] [6]			
		Seinfeld [1] [6]	Jeopardy! (N)	Entertainment	Judge Judy [6]	State Circle	Washington Week	Moneywise	Friends [1] [6]			
		*** "The Rundown" (2003, Adventure)	America's Funniest Home Videos [1]	Ghost Whisperer "Ghost, Interrupted"	Wicked Wicked Games "Love's Fury"	Washington Week	Washington Week	Evening Exch	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) [1] [6]			
		20/20 "The Year Caught on Tape" (N) [6]	Close to Home "Meth Murders" [1]	Watch Over Me "The Tap of Truth"	Cadfael Cadfael suspects an odd novitiate of murder. [1]	NOW (N) [6]	NOW (N) [6]	Viewer Favorites				
		The Rock. Premiere. [1] [6]	NUMB3RS "In Plain Sight" [1] [6]	The Tyra Banks Show [6]	Being Served							
		News	News	News	Still Standing [1]							
		News [6]	News [6]	News [6]	Sierra Center Stage [1] [6]							
		News [6]	News [6]	News [6]								
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Crossing Jordan "Skin & Bone" [1]	CSI: Miami "Losing Face" [1] [6]	CSI: Miami "Wet Foot/Dry Foot" [1]	CSI: Miami "Just One Kiss" [1] [6]	CSI: Miami "Ashes to Ashes" [6]	CSI: Miami "Broken" [1] [6]					
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter [6]	The Crocodile Hunter [6]	Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor	The Planet's Funniest Animals [6]	Animal Planet Heroes Phoenix [6]					
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown. [6]	Movie Special (N)	*** "Lockdown" (2000, Drama) Richard T. Jones, Gabriel Casseus. [6]	Comicview [6]							
	Bravo	(5:00) *** "Basic Instinct" (1992)	*** "Braveheart" (1995, Historical Drama) Mel Gibson, Sophie Marceau, Patrick McGeehan. A Scottish rebel rallies his countrymen against England. [6]									
	Comedy	(5:00) *** "Rat Race" (2001) [6]	Scrubs [1] [6]	Scrubs [1] [6]	Scrubs [1] [6]	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	
	Court	Hollywood Justice	Masterminds	Cops [1] [6]	Cops [1] [6]	World's Scariest Police Chases 3 [1]	Forensic Files	Forensic Files	The Investigators "Helzer Skelter"	Investigation	Forensic Files	
	Discovery	It Takes a Thief [6]	Dirty Jobs Penguins.	Man vs. Wild: The Rockies [6]	Man vs. Wild Pacific Ocean. (N)	I Shouldn't Be Alive "Lost at Sea"	Skeleton Stories "A Head for Murder"					
	DISCH	Dr. G: Medical Examiner [6]	Dr. G: Medical Examiner	Untold Stories of the E.R.	Untold Stories of the E.R.							
	Disney	Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	*** "Freaky Friday" (2003) Jamie Lee Curtis, Lindsay Lohan. [1] [6]	Zack & Cody					
	E!	Seinfeld: The True Hollywood Story	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	The Soup	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	E! News	The Daily 10
SPAN	FX	King of the Hill [1]	King of the Hill [1]	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	That '70s Show
	HGTV	If Walls Could	Offbeat America	What You Get	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	24 Hour Design	Under 1 Roof (N)	Save Us-House	House Hunters	House Hunters	House Hunters
	Family	Smallville "Crusade" [1] [6]	Smallville "Commencement" [6]	*** "Superman: The Movie" (1978) Christopher Reeve. Superman learns of a plot to destroy the West Coast. [6]								
	History	Our Generation	Mail Call [6]	Shootout! Battle of Fallujah.	Hell: The Devil's Domain [6]							
	Lifetime	Reba [1] [6]	Reba [1] [6]	Still Standing [1]	Still Standing [1]	"Cries in the Dark" (2006, Suspense) Eva LaRue. [6]						
	MTV	Pimp My Ride [1]	Pimp My Ride [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Rob & Big [1]	Real World-Rd
	NICK	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Nicktoons TV [1]	Nicktoons TV [1]	Full House [6]	Full House [6]	Roseanne [6]	Roseanne [6]	Roseanne [6]
	SCI FI	(4:00) *** "The Mummy" (1999)	*** "Jeepers Creepers" (2001, Horror) Gina Phillips, Justin Long. [1] [6]	*** "Jeepers Creepers 2" (2003) Ray Wise, Jonathan Breck. [1] [6]								
	SPIKE	(4:30) *** "Goldfinger" (1964)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [1]	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation [1]	King of Queens	King of Queens	Wild Weddings "The Lighter Side"	What Not to Wear "Lauri" [6]	What Not to Wear "Courtney C."	What Not to Wear "Lauri" [6]		
	TBS	Seinfeld [1] [6]	Seinfeld [1] [6]	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	*** "Sleepy Hollow" (1999, Horror) Johnny Depp, Christina Ricci. [6]	*** "The Fifth Element" (1997) Bruce Willis, Gary Oldman, Ian Holm. [6]					
SPORTS	TLC	What Not to Wear "Jeannie P." [6]	Take Home Chef	Take Home Chef	Wild Weddings "The Lighter Side"	What Not to Wear "Lauri" [6]	What Not to Wear "Courtney C."	What Not to Wear "Lauri" [6]				
	TNT	Law & Order "Formerly Famous" [1]	Without a Trace "Maple Street" [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]
	USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]	Run's House [1]
	VHI	"The Jacksons: An American Dream"										
	TELEM	Sala de Parejas	Noti-Telemundo	Viuda de Blanco (N)	Marina (N)	Amor Mio (N)	*** "Passenger 57" (1992) Wesley Snipes, Bruce Payne.	Noti-Telemundo	Premios Cornet			
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Heridas de Amor (N)	La Fea Más Bella (N)	Mundo de Fieras (N)	Casos de la Vida Real	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.			
	ESPN	(4:30) College Football Autozone Liberty Bowl -- Houston vs. South Carolina.	College Football Champs Sports Bowl -- Maryland vs. Purdue. From Orlando, Fla. (Live) [6]									
	ESPN2	SportsCenter (Live) [6]	College Basketball Wake Forest at South Florida. (Live) [6]	College Basketball Illinois at Xavier. (Live) [6]								
	CSN	Totally Football	SportsNite [6]	NBA Basketball Orlando Magic at Washington Wizards. From Verizon Center in Washington, D.C.	Wizards Post.	SportsNite (Live) [6]	CvC Special	Final Score				
MOVIES	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight [6]	The Situation Room	Paula Zahn Now [6]	Larry King Live [6]	Anderson Cooper 360 [6]	The O'Reilly Factor					
	FNC	Special Report (Live) [6]	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	Blood Secrets Susan Berman.	MSNBC Investigates	MSNBC Special: Predator					
	MSNBC	Tucker	Hardball [6]									
	AMC	(5:30) *** "Taxi Driver" (1976, Drama) Robert De Niro, Jodie Foster. 'R'	*** "Gothika" (2003, Horror) Halle Berry, Robert Downey Jr. 'R' [6]	*** "Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers" (1988)	Child's Play 2 'R'							
	TCM	*** "That Touch of Mink" (1962, Comedy) Cary Grant, Doris Day. 'NR' [6]	*** "Rock Around the Clock" (1956) Premiere. 'NR'	*** "It's Trad, Dad!" (1962) 'NR'	(:45) *** "Don't Knock the Twist" (1962) Premiere. 'NR'							
	HBO	(5:00) *** "Necessary Roughness"	Inside the NFL [1] [6]	Real Sports [6]	*** "Domino" (2005, Action) Keira Knightley, Mickey Rourke. [1] 'R' [6]	(:15) *** "War of the Worlds" [1]						
	MAX	*** "Fatal Attraction" (1987, Suspense) Michael Douglas. [1] 'R' [6]	*** "Serenity" (2005, Science Fiction) Nathan Fillion. [1] 'PG-13' [6]	*** "Fantastic Four" (2005) Ioan Gruffudd. 'PG-13' [6]	Intimate Sessions							
	SHOW	(4:45) House of D	*** "The Amityville Horror" (1979, Horror) James Brolin. iTV. 'R'	*** "The Amityville Horror" (2005) Ryan Reynolds. 'R'	Masters of Horror (iTV) (N) [1] [6]	*** "3 Needles" (2005) iTV. 'NR'						
	TMC	One Tough Cop	*** "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) Tom Hanks. [1] 'PG'	(:15) "All We Are Saying" (2005, Documentary) 'NR'	*** "BloodRayne" (2006) Kristanna Loken. [1] 'R' [6]	Alone in the Dark						
	STARZ!	(5:30) *** "When a Stranger Calls"	*** "Freedomland" (2006, Crime Drama) Samuel L. Jackson. [1] 'R' [6]	*** "Underworld: Evolution" (2006, Horror) Kate Beckinsale. [1] 'R' [6]	(10:50) *** "Armageddon" (1998) [6]							
ENCORE	ENCORE	(:05) *** "Houseguest" (1995, Comedy) Sinbad, Phil Hartman. [1] 'PG' [6]	*** "Sleepless in Seattle" (1993) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan. [1] 'PG' [6]	*** "Point Break" (1991, Action) Patrick Swayze, Keanu Reeves. [1] 'R' [6]								

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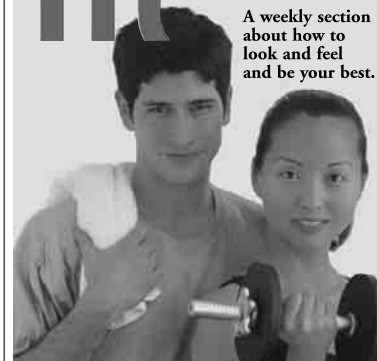
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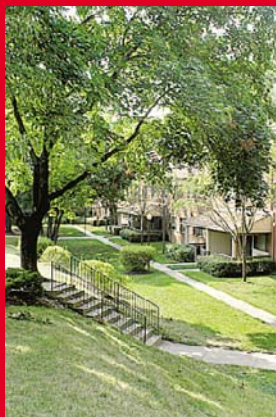
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The King

30 years after his death, can Elvis still attract young fans?

Teenagers in the 1950s and '60s went wild over Elvis Presley, much to the consternation of their parents, but kids in the new millennium aren't so stirred by rock 'n' roll's original rebel.

"I can't try to sell somebody Elvis who doesn't know who he is ... that he's not just some guy who's been gone for 30 years," said Paul Jankowski, chief of marketing for Elvis Presley Enterprises Inc.

Next year, three decades after Presley's death, the multimillion dollar Elvis business will try to connect with a new generation of teenage fans.

"Our opportunity demographic is really going to be 12 to 34 [years old], with a sweet spot around the

18-to-24 area," Jankowski said.

Next year more film clips, photos and other material from the vast Presley archives will be showing up online.

"We will take our MySpace page and we will focus on expanding our number of friends on MySpace, that kind of thing," Jankowski said. "There's all kind of Elvis content on YouTube, things that we put up, things that fans put up."

The Elvis archives offer a rich source of material for "digital tactics," Jankowski said. "You know, for cell phones or doing wallpaper or doing podcasts."

Moving Elvis content online should be easy; making Elvis cool again will be more difficult.

Aaron O'Connell, a 17-year-old from Fredericksburg, Va., who was visiting souvenir shops at Graceland, said it could be tough to make Elvis relevant again.

"Probably in today's world, like, he wouldn't be as cool, but back then he probably was," said O'Connell.

Presley managers are preparing

INSIDE

The good, bad and crazy year in celebs | **46**



Blog Log Dan Snyder's conscience calls? | **44**

Air It Out Readers on Md. auto emissions | **44**



SAVING GRACELAND: A new push will begin to make Elvis cool to teenagers again.

plans to open an office at Graceland, is coming out with a limited line of 30 custom-made motorcycles — just like the ones Elvis rode.

Prices aren't yet set, but the one-of-a-kind Harleys could run up to \$50,000. And while that's well beyond the reach of most teenagers — or Elvis fans in general — the replica bikes are also part of the cool factor in Presley marketing.

"The new owners will be flown to Memphis and they'll pick their bikes up at the steps of Graceland," Jankowski said.

Forbes magazine says Elvis, one of the top-grossing dead celebrities,

Burning Love

for a big year, particularly for the weeklong series of concerts, fan-club gatherings and other death anniversary events held each August at Graceland, which draws more than 600,000 visitors annually.

Presley died of heart disease and prescription drug abuse at age 42 at Graceland on Aug. 16, 1977.







Elvis Presley Enterprises has more than 200 licensees producing souvenirs and signature products, and new ones for 2007 will have a youthful focus, like a peanut butter and banana cream candy bar from Hershey with the King's picture on the wrapper.

A Harley-Davidson dealer, with

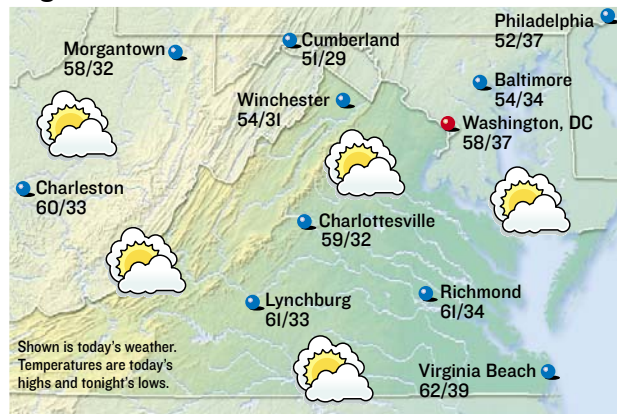
brought in \$42 million over the past year. But with the aging of Presley's longtime base of admirers, EPE needs a new wave of younger fans.

"We want to reinvigorate our core demographic and grow it," Jankowski said, "while we introduce the icon to the next generation." **WOODY BAIRD (AP)**

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
					
Partly sunny; mild	Partly cloudy	Partly sunny; mild	Mostly cloudy; mild	Cloudy; rain	Partly sunny; breezy
58°	37°	53° / 35°	49° / 38°	51° / 43°	55° / 35°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2006

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High	49°
Low	32°
Normal high	44°
Normal low	29°
Average humidity	60%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.50"
Normal month to date	2.75"
Year to date	47.71"
Last year to date	44.03"
Normal year to date	39.05"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

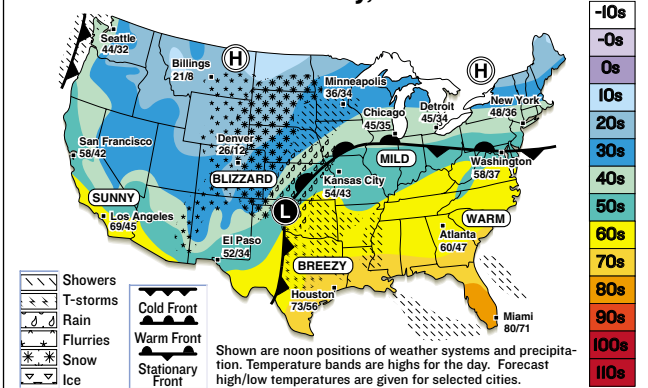
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny. High 58. Wind south-east 3-6 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 37. Saturday, partly sunny. High 53.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:26 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:54 p.m.
Moonrise today	12:48 p.m.
Moonset today	2:09 a.m.



National Weather for Friday, December 29



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	60/47/pc	62/52/c
Boston	39/30/pc	44/32/c
Chicago	45/35/c	49/36/c
Dallas	62/47/t	55/40/pc
Denver	26/12/sn	31/15/sn
Honolulu	80/68/s	81/70/s
Los Angeles	69/45/s	72/47/s
Miami	80/71/pc	82/70/pc
New York City	48/36/pc	48/37/pc
Orlando	80/62/pc	80/63/pc
Seattle	44/32/c	42/33/pc

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	46/39/pc	41/41/r
Athens	55/45/pc	52/39/pc
Berlin	39/36/c	47/39/pc
Buenos Aires	93/72/pc	88/70/pc
Calgary	32/23/s	29/18/pc
Dublin	54/45/r	48/39/sh
Geneva	48/28/pc	52/38/pc
Moscow	21/14/sf	16/13/c
Rome	54/41/sf	54/39/s
Sydney	73/66/t	77/68/t
Tokyo	47/33/s	44/32/s

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

 from readexpress.com

Clearing the Air on Emissions

COMMENTS | Thursday's Poll Center question on whether Maryland lawmakers should impose tougher automobile emission standards sparked a lively debate on READEXPRESS.COM.

Commenter Shane said environmental problems had more to do with personal behavior than cars: "As usual, readers respond to today's survey with the belief that pollution is both bad for society and our habitat, but would rather have controls implemented somewhere else, not in our back yard. ... Saving the planet starts at home."

Several readers pointed to traffic as a major pollution problem. Said commenter ARG: "Just spending a little money to get the traffics lights

timed so traffic doesn't have to stop as much would be a big help in easing pollution...."

Commenter Bryan appears to support a call to toughen standards: "The federal government has done a lot to reduce pollution on our country, but it hasn't done enough. If a state recognizes there is a greater need to reduce emissions, then it should take the initiative and do it, just like California has."

Want to add your two cents? Join the conversation online or e-mail us at COMMENTS@READEXPRESS.COM.

Music Fans Respond

NOTED | After days of mostly negative comments about Metro's plan



Environmental activists want Maryland to enact stricter auto emission standards.

to allow sanctioned performances outside Metrorail stations, Express on Thursday received a pair of e-mails supporting the plan.

E-mailer Patrick Holian responded this way: "Finally. Metro musicians. Liven up this town! Give the troubadours a job! The Metro will be a better place. So will the attitudes of those who ride."

Another e-mailer agreed, saying, "Art and music should make the stations more human and less stiff."

→ Coming Up Today

In the NFL's last regular-season week, need help to win your office football pool? Sunday Pick 'Em has a winning record against the spread this year.

? Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Would you eat meat from cloned animals?

1. Yes
2. No

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Should Maryland impose stricter auto emission standards?

NO **YES**

65% 35%

As of 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Not a scientific poll.

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP



"It looks like they are really going to kill Saddam, huh? I don't know how I feel about this one, y'all. Seriously."

MONICAMINGO.COM ADMITS THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN DID SOME "PRETTY BAD STUFF" WHILE IN CHARGE OF IRAQ, BUT SAYS THE CURRENT CHAOS AND FAILURE OF DEMOCRACY IN THE COUNTRY SHOWS THAT HE HAD TO HAVE RULED IN SUCH A BRUTAL WAY JUST TO "KEEP ORDER."

Mary, Quite Contrary

"Though I don't have the same antipathy towards GWU that residents of Foggy Bottom do, it does seem there is a conflict of interest between being employed by GWU, the city's largest landowner after the federal government."

URBANPLACESANDSPACES.BLOGSPOT.COM WONDERS HOW WARD 3 COUNCIL MEMBER MARY CHEH'S JOB MAY AFFECT HER VOTES.

Will Blog for Cash

"This is exciting stuff, because this rings the first signs of consolidation between the erstwhile dispersed networks that bloggers used to make money. I feel this is just a beginning."

NICE-IDEAS.BLOGSPOT.COM ON THE PURCHASE OF PERFORMANCING.COM BY PAY PER POST, A BLOGGER PAYMENT SERVICE.



Everyone Is Right

"When they hand out the trophy for Coach of the Year in the National Football League, Sean Payton of New Orleans should be the man hoisting the award. Yes, Payton is the fan favorite. Yes, he's the obvious choice."

IVORYTOWERZ.BLOGSPOT.COM DOESN'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH THE NFL GOING WITH THE CONVENTIONAL PICK, PAYTON, FOR ITS COACH OF THE YEAR AWARD.



Maybe He Was Visited By 4 Ghosts

"Setting aside the ethics of trying to renegotiate a deal that's already been agreed to, this is kind of impressive. Could Dan Snyder be learning the value of a dollar? That just because he has the cash to spend doesn't mean he necessarily has to?"

THEDCUNIVERSE.BLOGSPOT.COM WONDERS IF SNYDER'S RETHINKING OF BUYING OUT THE REGION'S LAST CLASSICAL MUSIC RADIO STATION WILL MEAN A NEW STYLE OF REDSKINS OWNERSHIP, TOO.

Live Online

Ford and Press

RON NESSEN, press secretary to President Gerald Ford from 1974 to 1977, was online on Thursday to discuss the passing of the 38th president and his relationship with the press.

What was your impression of how President Ford was affected by the criticism of pardoning Nixon? He believed the pardon was the right thing to do for the nation — as most people now do — and he never had second thoughts about doing it.

Given current White House press corps coverage, what do you think is different about coverage of the president now compared to President Ford's tenure?

The press coverage of the White House is marked now, as it was when I was press secretary, by a great deal of suspicion and skepticism and downright disbelief. The major difference is that there were no 24-hour-a-day cable news networks in those days. With so much airtime to fill up, cable news chan-

nels often fill the time with speculation, predictions and guesses.

Why do you think President Ford did not wish to air his disagreements with the current administration's Iraq policy until after his passing?


Ford knew that such public criticism from a former president would only make President Bush's task of managing the Iraq War more difficult.

Chevy Chase has often said in the past that he suspected his weekly "Saturday Night Live" imitation of Gerald Ford as a bumbling goof were ultimately damaging to Ford's re-election. Agree or disagree? Also, you and Ford both appeared on the program in its heyday — what was the fallout from that episode?

Chevy Chase is perhaps displaying a bit too much self-importance. The assessment in the White House was that Ford's agreement to record several bits for the show, and his self-deprecating put-down of Chevy Chase at a White House Correspondents Association dinner, probably helped him with voters because it showed he had a good sense of humor and didn't take himself too seriously.

DON'T

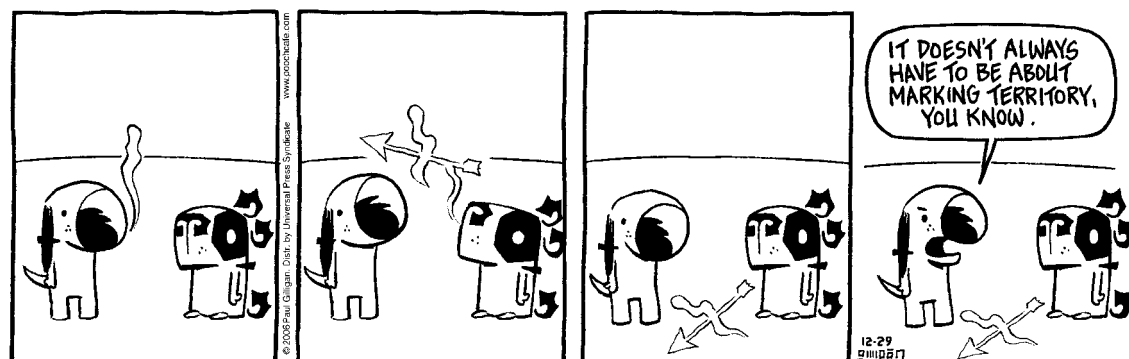
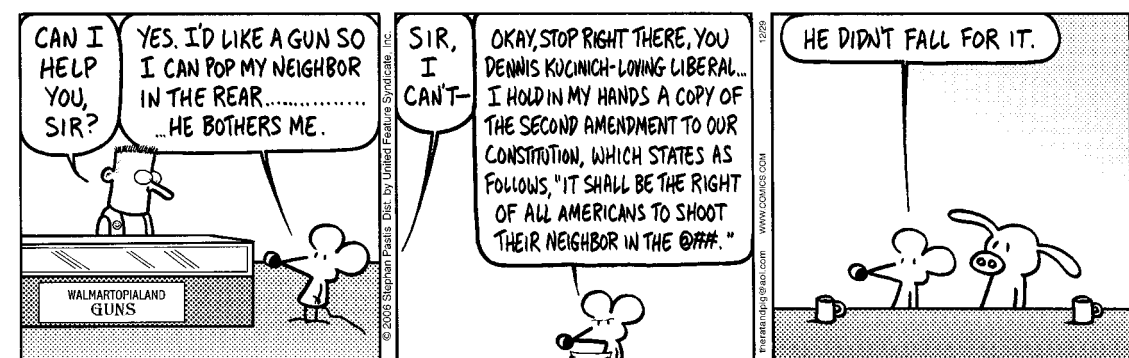
WATCH PAINT DRY. We don't know a Web site for that. But we do know a place to watch a hunk of cheese mold during the course of a year. Introducing Cheddarvision.tv, where a live shot of the cheese 24 hours a day proves the molding process is a dull one.

 **TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE:** In observance of the holidays, there are no scheduled discussions. They will return on Jan. 2. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

Cornered | Mike Baldwin


"Catch of the day. We got lucky."

Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan

Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy


Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) A competition is likely to heat up, requiring you to bring only your best into the ring. A face-to-face challenge can be met with style.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Be careful you don't let routine tensions add up to physical ills; your mind and your body can only take so much. Try to relax.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) Don't worry unnecessarily about those things you cannot readily change. When in doubt, get comfortable with friends in your own home.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Dot the i's and cross the t's, as someone is looking and you don't want to make any errors as a result of haste or carelessness.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Keep your eyes and ears open, and you'll be the first to recognize a new opportunity for romantic bliss—or at least the pleasure of friendship.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Things may not

be as they seem, but you can work with almost anyone to see that you remain on top. You're likely to earn respect.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) What you do must be done honestly and without any attempts at deceit. Others will surely require you to prove yourself—all day long.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) It's a good day to be warm and generous with someone who has been standoffish and aloof. Avoid being a social butterfly at this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Now is no time to repeat yourself; what you do and say should be original, springing from your own internal desires and rhythms.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Speak out for what you believe in, and others will listen with a renewed interest as a result of your own keen determination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Surprised developments and unexpected circumstances may slow you down. Don't overdo it in your attempt to catch up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Try not to give away too much, or you'll find yourself lacking in more than one area. Some secrets are best kept at this time.

Letters

Metro Should 'Step Back'

TO ADD TO THE MASS of outraged responses, I would like to vent my frustration on some of the reasoning for the Metro rate hike currently being discussed. I read that one of the main reasons that WMATA is

predicting a budget shortfall is that it mistakenly predicted more of an increase in customers. When I am packed into the four-car Blue Line train every evening during rush hour, the last thing that occurs to me is that WMATA was expecting more riders. Metro should "Step back!" and re-evaluate their policies.

—MATT SMILES
Alexandria, Va.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1170 Archbishop Thomas Becket is murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in England.

1845 Texas is admitted as the 28th state.

1851 The first American Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is organized in Boston.

1890 Some 300 Sioux Indians are killed by U.S. troops in the Wounded Knee Massacre in South Dakota.

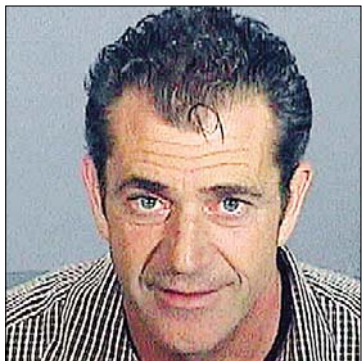
1916 Grigory Rasputin, the so-called "Mad Monk" who



Grigory Rasputin was murdered in St. Petersburg, Russia, today in 1916.

wielded great influence with Czar Nicholas II, is murdered.

1996 War-weary guerrillas and government leaders in Guatemala sign an accord ending 36 years of civil conflict.



When people looked at the "Apocalypse" poster, all they could see was this.

NO EXCUSES

Devil Made Them Do It?

MEL GIBSON proved a worthy summer diversion when he was pulled over on July 27 and delivered an ear-searing anti-Semitic speech to his arresting officers. **MICHAEL RICHARDS**, who didn't even have the "I was drunk" excuse, was quite rude to some black audience members during a gig on Nov. 17.

RETURNS

Get Back On the Hoff

DAVID HASSELHOFF was all kinds of everywhere this year. He starred in "America's Got Talent." He was wounded by a chandelier. He had a hit video, if YouTube viewings count. And his autobiography, "Making Waves," pubbed in Europe. Go Hoff!



ADORABLE

Miracle Babies

Who's the prettiest wittle girl in the whole wide world? That's a good question, actually. Is it **SURI**, offspring of **KATIE HOLMES** and **TOM CRUISE**, who married on Nov. 18? Or is it Shiloh, blessed scion of **ANGELINA JOLIE** and **BRAD PITT**, who announced that they won't marry until gay people can, too? Our answer: They are both equally special in different ways. Even though Suri is clearly cuter.



GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

BAD GIRLS

Unseemly, but Not Unusual

There was no shortage of un-lady-like behavior this year, with hardware hurled and plenty of nasty comments made. **LINDSAY LOHAN** dominated gossip all summer, cavorting in bikinis, getting in car accidents, losing stuff in airports and memorably being told off by her "Georgia Rule" boss for her unprofessional behavior. She didn't get arrested, though. The skeletal **NICOLE RICHIE** did, on Dec. 11, for driving under the influence of drugs. This was after she reunited with bad-seed BFF **PARIS**



HILTON, who was shackled after driving while drunk on Sept. 7. In November, **DENISE RICHARDS** threw two laptops belonging to photographers off a balcony, injuring two elderly women. **NAOMI CAMPBELL**, on the other hand, preferred to throw cellphones at maids. In the diss department, **SIENNA MILLER** substituted a rude word for the "Pitt" bit of "Pittsburgh." Closer to home, **HILARY DUFF** called then-boyfriend Joel Madden's hometown of Waldorf a "pretty ghetto place." And this past month, **KELLY RIPA** stated that she didn't want **CLAY AIKEN**'s hand over her mouth because she didn't know where it'd been, causing all kind of ruckus.

SCANDAL

It's All Very Sad, Really

In the sordid-yet-heavily-tinged-with-sadness scandal department, the year gave us the tales of **JAMES FREY**, **ANNA NICOLE SMITH** and **O.J. SIMPSON**. In January, the "A Million Little Pieces" author admitted he made up portions of his purported memoir. Oprah, who'd championed the recovering addict, was not at all pleased. In September, Anna Nicole Smith's son **DANIEL** suddenly and somewhat mysteriously died while visiting his mother and newborn sister in the hospital, a tragedy that was drowned out by the paternity battle over the baby and Smith's selling of various family photos for profit. And, of course, there's O.J., whose "If I Did It" book and TV special (or, as some called it, consequence-free confession) were killed before the world could wallow in self-hate for reading/watching it. Publisher **JUDITH REGAN** was fired shortly afterwards.



NOW'S YOUR CHANCE

On the Market

After outlasting 99 percent of Hollywood marriages by reaching their seventh anniversary, **REESE WITHERSPOON** and **RYAN PHILLIPS** untied the knot and announced their split in late October. Perhaps impressed by this show of independence, **BRITNEY SPEARS** divested herself of **KEVIN FEDERLINE**, filing for divorce on Nov. 7, then proceeded to party with Paris Hilton. Sons Sean Preston and Jayden James have barely been seen since. The other juicy divorce to watch in 2007? **PAUL MCCARTNEY** and **HEATHER MILLS**.



OUT AND PROUD

Closet Cases

On July 26, 'N Sync's few remaining female fans had their hearts broken when **LANCE BASS** announced he was gay on the cover of People. He was "very stable" in his relationship with "Amazing Race" winner **REICHEN LEHMKUHL** ... but by December, they were no longer an item. Also self-outted: **NEIL PATRICK HARRIS** and **T.R. KNIGHT** (of "Grey's Anatomy").



BYE NOW

Pop Culture Passages

Among those who died this year, 44-year-old adventurer **STEVE IRWIN**'s accidental death was the most unexpected. Other celebrities who passed on in 2006 include television producer **AARON SPELLING**, 83; actors **DON KNOTTS**, 81, and **JACK PALANCE**,



87; acclaimed director **ROBERT ALTMAN**, 81; "60 Minutes" anchor **ED BRADLEY**, 65; playwright **WENDY WASSERSTEIN**, 55; singers **WILSON PICKETT**, 64, and **LOU RAWLS**, 72; author **BETTY FRIEDAN**, 85; actresses **JANE WYATT**, 96, **MAUREEN STAPLETON**, 80, **JUNE ALLYSON**, 88, and soul legend **JAMES BROWN**, 73.

LOOK out

Twice-Told

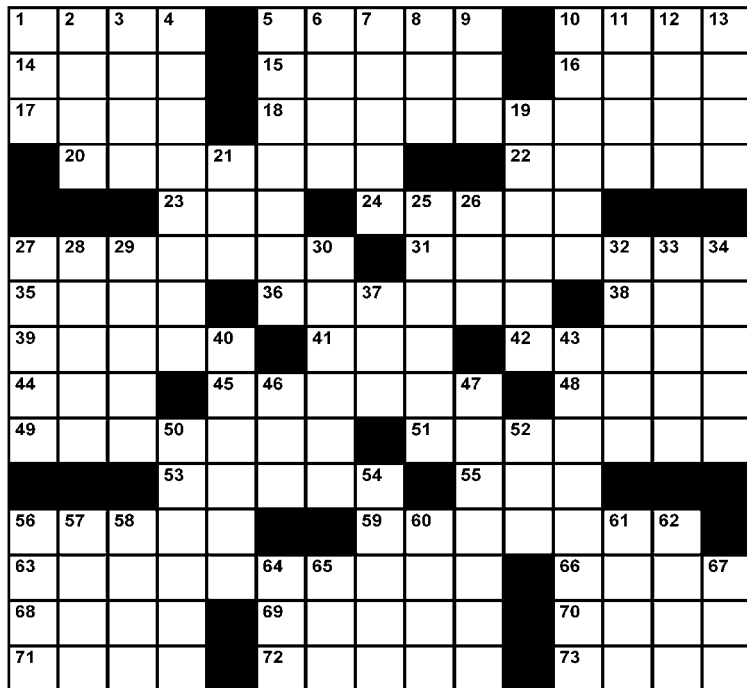
ACROSS

- 1 "___ you one!"
5 Some revealing attire
10 Spew fire and brimstone
14 Clump on a wheel
15 Muscat dweller
16 Stork relative
17 Democracy begun in 1937
18 One way to win two games
20 Largest living bird
22 Tournament flora
23 Symbol of wisdom
24 Mellow woodwinds
27 Holds fast
31 City liberated by Joan of Arc
35 Evangelist's suggestion
36 Magnifiers of distant objects, perhaps
38 Happy associate
39 Cuts away
41 "You ___ it to yourself"
42 Practice piece
44 Practice deception, in a way
45 Type of meat or laughter
48 Buck heroine
49 Trap
51 Glass tube used in chemistry
53 Type of whiskey
55 Convened
56 It comes straight from the heart
59 Expression of regret

- 63 Detailed account
66 Gift for a handyman, probably
68 "The Time Machine" race
69 Sweater synthetic
70 One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"
71 Not well, mentally
72 Christmas seasons
73 Cheese coated in wax

DOWN

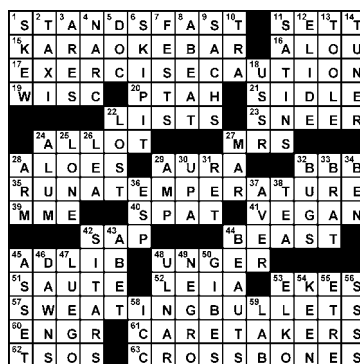
- 1 Type of tray
2 Varied mixture
3 Occasions when arms are raised
4 A way to see things
5 They may be suspended in art class
6 Popular computer
7 Cheesy munchie
8 Stamp-pad fluid
9 Command to a guest
10 RNA component
11 Arabian garments
12 Easy partner
13 Disapproving words
19 Otherwise
21 Presidential inits.
25 Sheepless shepherdess
26 It may have a lead part
27 Waldorf salad



- ingredient
28 Clog location
29 Some bounders
30 Tea pastries
32 Old enough to know better
33 Relay a bid, as to an auctioneer
34 Public to-do
37 Newman's ___ (grocery offerings)
40 Beetle-shaped amulet
43 How some boxers fight
46 Onassis nickname
47 Writes out of an inheritance

- 50 Foolish person
52 Intimate friend
54 Oscar winner
Berry
56 Tucked in for the night
57 Pueblo pot
58 Angry people may hit it
60 Betting group
61 Kind of standard
62 Method of meditation and exercise
64 Hither companion
65 Male friend or relative, in slang
67 Flee hastily

Yesterday's Solution



Su | do | ku

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Yesterday's Solution

2	8	3	7	6	4	1	9	5
4	5	9	8	2	1	6	3	7
1	6	7	3	5	9	2	4	8
9	4	8	6	1	5	3	7	2
6	7	5	9	3	2	8	1	4
3	1	2	4	7	8	5	6	9
8	3	6	5	4	7	9	2	1
5	2	4	1	9	3	7	8	6
7	9	1	2	8	6	4	5	3

			9		4			6
			7			3	2	
				1	8			
	5		4		6		9	
		6		9				
1		6	3				7	
		8	1					
	3	7		8				
4			2		7			

Need more Su | do | ku?

Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

express

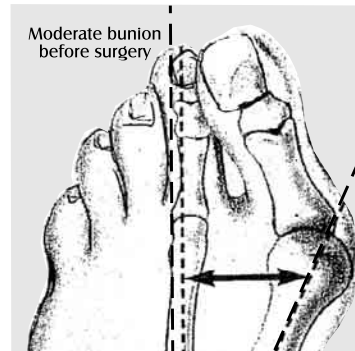
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face QA time

■ **Since co-founding** Arlington's Signature Theatre in 1989, Eric Schaeffer has guided his company in Stephen Sondheim musicals and brave new dramas at venues ranging from city parks to the troupe's own converted-garage black box theater. Jan. 12, the guy known for making a little theater a critical big deal struts his stuff at Signature's new \$16 million complex, directing Sondheim's fractured fairy tale, "Into the Woods."

What excites you most about the new theater?

The theater space itself is fantastic — there are no girders in the way, and it's intimate enough that there's still a relationship between the audience and the stage. It'll be great not having to fight for parking or worry about the toilets backing up.

Why start with "Into the Woods?"

The new theater's got such a great height that I thought it'd work. We can do it very environmentally and make everyone feel like they're deep in the woods.

What's the staging like?

There's not a pretty little storybook

forest feel to it. The set is really dark and edgy. And even Cinderella's ballgown, which you think of as pure and white, has got black on it. Overall, this "Woods" is more desperate, an anthem for survival.

In the few hours you haven't been getting a new theater ready, what other shows have you seen lately?

I just took in "Grey Gardens" and "A Chorus Line" in New York. "Chorus Line" just seemed so simple and brilliant.

The theater is moving into Shirlington Village. Do you have any favorite hangouts there?

Staffers always go to Cap City



CAROL PRATT

Eric Schaeffer

SIGNATURE THEATRE DIRECTOR, PAINTER

Brewing Company. We call it the office. We drink there after rehearsals.

How do you unwind and entertain chez Eric?

When I'm having a summer cook-out, we always have weenies on the grill. Or sometimes I do pizzas. And liquor, liquor, liquor — you know theater people are crazy.

What kind of things happen at these crazy parties?

I've got a baby grand in the living room, so that's good for sing-alongs. Everyone is drunk at 3 a.m., and they say, "Let's start singing show-tunes!"

What's your house like?

It's a U shape, built in 1965, very Frank Lloyd Wright-like. It's com-

"I've got a baby grand in the living room, so that's good for sing-alongs."

fortable, but not overcrowded.

I understand you do paintings there in your spare time?

I do big acrylic canvases, maybe 3 feet by 4 feet. They're very impressionistic, and I paint them with both brushes and sticks. They're funky, and everyone sees something different in them. Painting is a really relaxing way to forget about the pressures of the theater.

What are you going to wear on opening night at the new theater?

At rehearsals, it's just jeans, sneakers and a sweater. But on opening night, a suit. But no tie. I can't — I don't want to be buttoned in.

JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

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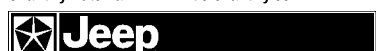
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JULIA EWAN/TW



Go Wild, Gift Cards

Whip out your plastic present right away for the best deals

Touting slashed prices is still all the rage, but stores have a new plug to bring in post-holiday traffic this season: Spend your gift card pronto. Chances are that, instead of stuffing your trunk with bulky goodies this holiday, you slipped away from your parents' place with your haul tucked in your wallet. After all, Americans dropped \$24.8 billion on the plastic rectangles this year, up from \$18.5 billion in 2005, according to the National Retail Federation.

So the Sears Web site asks in huge text, "What will you get with your gift card? It's the gift of possibility." Home Depot's ads are pro-

moting its January gift card push — they'll donate 5 percent of whatever you redeem by Jan. 28 to the USO. And Kohl's cajoles online shoppers to "Treat yourself to an after holiday gift. Use Your Kohl's gift card today."

That's sage advice, according to Frank Dorman of the Federal Trade Commission. "The rule of thumb is use it now," he said. "You might just forget it and then your grandchild will find it one day and say, 'What is this?'" Dan Horne, a marketing professor at Providence College known as "the gift card guru," agreed, "The giver didn't want you to have a piece of plastic."

And while in past years stores may have hoped to get dough from the giver and never see the recipient walk through their doors, that kind of thinking is dead. Now, stores see gift cards as tools to lure new lifelong patrons. "This is an opportuni-

ty to engage the customer and give them good value and service," Horne explained. "That's worth so much more than hoping the card doesn't come in." Horne predicts that shoppers will see more benefits, like discounts and free gifts, for using the cards in the future.

The old reason for using cards fast was the fees that mounted quickly with non-use and expiration dates that left the things void, but most stores have gotten the hint from angry consumers and state legislatures that funny business like that won't fly. Macy's is the only major retailer whose cards expire, Horne said.

But beware if you got one of the cards issued by a credit card company. Most still charge \$2 per month after a year has passed, expire or include other nasty hidden fees, and fighting them won't do any good because they explain it right there

in microscopic font. ("Normal people can't read disclosures," Horne said. "You need a law degree and a magnifying glass.") Plus, they can be denied at restaurants and gas stations, because those places require authorization for sums greater than the bill.

Don't begrudge your aunt if she sent you an American Express gift card, though. The company rolled out huge ads on Dec. 26 telling recipients, "You got the gift. Now get more." Two of its hints are worth repeating: Check out the special offers and always know your balance (that goes for users of any credit card-based gift card). Although you can use the plastic wherever AmEx is accepted, you might not realize that it now can get you 20 percent off a purchase at Pier 1 Imports, 10 percent off at Foot Locker, buy-one-get-one-free games at AMF bowling alleys and

other deals.

Having a handle on your balance, which you can check online or by calling a toll-free number, can also help you avoid situations in which your card will be denied. "We know there have been, in the past, difficulty using the cards," said American Express' Robert Sherman. "We want to make sure they have a positive experience." If you know you only have \$27 left on a card and are buying a \$35 sweater, ask the clerk to split the purchase before dealing with any hassle.

And if you still haven't bought gifts? Procrastinators may want to take advantage of gift card deals still going on. California Tortilla is throwing in a coupon for a free burrito with a \$25 gift card until Dec. 31, Chili's is offering a \$5 bonus card for every \$25 gift card, also through Dec. 31, and Bertucci's hooks you up with a \$10 card for every \$50 you spend in gift cards. At least you'll eat well when you're broke next month.

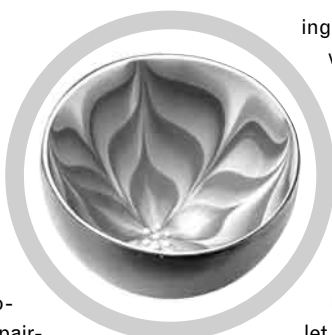
VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)

PRESENTATION SENSATION ►► SERVING CHOCOLATES

Showing Off Your Sweets

■ The only boxes of seasonal swag you haven't ripped open yet—hopefully, if you're getting ready for New Year's resolutions—are the stacks of bon bons. But although many come in cute boxes, that's no way to serve them at a formal dinner party.

When Joseph Schmidt, the San Francisco-based chocolatier whose claim to fame is inventing the egg-shaped truffle, offers his treats to guests, they're on a platter. "If they're really pretty, a plain white plate will do, and that let's the chocolate show," he said. To bring out the flavors, he recommends pair-



ing the delights with coffee, port or dessert wine — but never with dry vino. “That competes in the mouth,” he explained.

With his gorgeous designs, like the chocolate bowl, left, made to look like delicately painted porcelain, Schmidt has another beef with consumers: They're too scared to dig in and destroy the piece of edible artwork. At events where he's done grand commissioned works that are meant to be devoured in a night, he's found the only way to encourage gawkers is to get dessert started himself. "I break off a piece and in a few minutes, the whole thing's gone," he said. So display your artistic confection briefly, then hack it up and let people pick pieces off a serving dish. v.h.

ON THE COVER

Express Top Model Amie wears a Rebecca Taylor trench, Queen Bee Designs necklace (\$416 and \$110, All About Jane, 2839 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington; 703-243-4424), and Saja top (Circle Boutique, 1608 17th St. NW; 202-518-2212). Photo by Michelle Repiso. Styling by Richard Bernal, The Artist Agency and Skin Beauty Lounge.



1 →

2 →



3 →



4 →



6 ←



5 ←

Gals, Go Forth

1. Comfy shoes needn't be hideous, orthopedic clog things suited to German hikers or insane asylum nurses. Your lowest extremities can look highly fashionable and be cushy in ballet flats, riding boots or teeny-heeled darlings like Biviel's Mary Janes. (\$129, Carbon, 2643 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-232-6645 and 1203 U St. NW; 202-986-2679)

2. DeBeers ads brainwash many a miss into lusting for dull diamond ear studs, tacky tennis bracelets and necklaces with sparkling "O" pendants, which, for all we know, stands for Oprah. Put the kibosh on cookie-cutter jewelry with where'd-you-get-that? bijoux like Lee Angel's necklace. (\$95, Betsy Fisher, 1224 Connecticut Ave. NW; 202-785-1975)

3. Is your name Paris or Posh? Then who are you impressing with a logo-strewn status bag that cost a car payment? Instead, get huge style for small money with Tano's oversized leather bag. It's big enough to hold all those dollars you saved by bypassing the tired Coach store, where

purses cost three times as much. (\$130, Betsy Fisher)

4. Skulls, songbirds, horses and chandeliers, we've known and loved wearing you! But the tee party's over for motif madness, which now seems more White Flint Mall than Williamsburg. Instead of sporting another symbol du jour, try something classy and fresh like Saja's striped top. (\$99, Circle Boutique, 1608 17th St. NW; 202-518-2212)

5. Embrace new shapes. Trust us: Trapeze dresses like this 3.1 Phillip Lim number transform most girls into Twiggy. (\$440, Muleh, 1831 14th St. NW; 202-667-3440)

6. Don't be a slabel (slave to one label). Yeah, we mean you, Miss Banana Republic 2006. It's great to find a designer or store whose cuts and styles suit your bod, budget and taste, but donning one label head-to-heel makes you resemble a magazine ad. Mix names and styles for your own signature look, not Ralph's or Marc's. (Sweetees top, \$80, OK47 jacket, \$124, and House Spy pants, \$128, Nana, 1528 U St. NW; 202-667-6955)

Styles | entertaining



SNACKS WITH A SECRET: Appetizers, like Spinach Pizza Wheels, left, and Peppadews Stuffed with Mozzarella, take minutes to make and use easy-to-get ingredients.

Just Cheat and Serve

Party nibbles star salad-bar staples and take-out pizza

Three weeks ago, inviting friends over for a cocktail bash seemed like social brilliance. Today, party day, you're in a panic, contemplating skipping town while clutching (and cursing) your "Appetizers for Dummies" cookbook.

Yeah, the drink part is easy — champagne's apropos this weekend, and vodka gimlets taste refreshing even in winter. But how're you gonna attack the snacks?

Like Paris Hilton, a good hors-d'oeuvre should be easy to pick up and dressed to impress. But you don't need to be a canape genius

— or hire a chef — to make little bites with big impact. You can tart up, embellish or otherwise disguise store-bought or take-out food without going the catering by Costco route.

For a party that's not just drinks (you weren't merely inviting frat boys or hard-drinking journo's, were you?), plan on six savory dishes (two of them vegetarian) and two desserts. Expect guests to eat about 10 morsels each. The conveyance (the base of the appetizer) should be sturdy and more creative than a Ritz cracker, perhaps a cucumber slice or a toasted pita triangle. To make dishes look as if you've slaved for ages, garnish with chopped parsley, diced red pepper or a colorful spice like paprika.

Fill in your buffet with empanadas from a Salvadoran restaurant, fried dumplings from a dim sum

place or mini sweets (jam thumbprint cookies, chocolate meringues) from a bakery like Pastries by Randolph (4500 Lee Highway, Arlington; 703-243-3304).

And when people praise your cooking, just give a mysterious smile and raise your martini glass.

Peppadews Stuffed with Fresh Mozzarella

→ ½ lb. peppadew peppers (from Whole Foods' olive bar)

→ 1/3 lb. marinated mini-mozzarella balls, halved

→ Chopped parsley (garnish)

BLOT THE PEPPADEWS on paper towels to remove excess marinade. Fill each pepper with a halved mozzarella ball. Garnish with parsley.

Spinach Pizza Wheels

ORDER AN EXTRA-LARGE Domino's or ZPizza spinach pizza with thin crust

and light sauce, unsliced. Let the pie get cold. Trim the pizza into a 14-inch x 10-inch rectangle, removing the outside crust. Divide the rectangle into two 14-inch x 5-inch rectangles. Cut each rectangle into 14 1-inch x 5-inch strips. Roll each strip into a pinwheel with the crust side out and secure each wheel with a toothpick. Place the pinwheels on a lightly greased baking sheet and bake for 8-10 minutes in a preheated 400-degree oven.

Mini Open-Faced BBQ Sandwiches

→ 1 lb. stewed chicken, beef or pork from the Whole Foods prepared food buffet, shredded

→ 4 tablespoons bottled barbecue sauce

→ 2 teaspoons Chipotle Tabasco sauce

→ 1 baguette, sliced into ½-inch

rounds

→ Finely diced red pepper or chopped chives/parsley (garnish)
IN A MEDIUM glass bowl, combine the meat, barbecue sauce and hot sauce. Microwave the mixture on high for 1 to 2 minutes until hot. Place a heaping spoonful of meat on each baguette slice. Garnish with herbs.

Smoked Salmon Spread On Endive Leaves

→ .40 lb. smoked salmon, finely chopped (Whole Foods or Safeway)

→ One 5.2 oz. package Boursin cheese, left at room temperature to soften

→ 2 large heads Belgian endive

→ Chopped chives or dill sprigs (garnish)

CUT THE BOTTOMS OFF the endive heads and separate the leaves. Set aside any leaves smaller than three inches for another use. Stack the leaves together, matching up their pointed tips, then trim the bottoms of the leaves so that they are all the same size. In a small bowl, mix the salmon and Boursin cheese. Place a heaping tablespoon of salmon spread on the wide bottom of each leaf. Garnish with chopped chives or a sprig of fresh dill.

Cucumber Cups with Old Bay Seafood

→ 2 English cucumbers, peeled, sliced into ¾-inch rounds

→ .40 lb. crawfish salad and .40 lb. shrimp salad (Whole Foods)

→ Old Bay Seasoning (garnish)

IN A SMALL BOWL, combine the two salads and mix well. With a 1-inch melon-baller, scoop a well out of the center of each cucumber slice, being careful not to cut all the way through the bottom. (Leave ¼ inch on the bottom.) Fill each well with a heaping spoonful of salad. Sprinkle each cup with Old Bay Seasoning.

DAVID HAGEDORN

BASH IN A FLASH ►► THERE'S ALWAYS AN EXCUSE TO PARTY

What Happens on Jan. 4th?

■ Which eternally youthful television host authored the "Easygoing Guide to Good Grooming" in 1986? Those who answered Dick Clark should reserve Thursday for a party that'll make ample use of their talents, because Jan. 4 is Trivia Day!

"Include trivia in the invite," suggested Rob Daviau, a senior game designer for Hasbro, maker of Trivial Pursuit. "Serve a lot of foods that people haven't eaten before, then explain where it's from and why you're serving it." Play CDs and try to name the artist and the year each song was released, or watch DVDs with the sound off to see if you can quote your favorite lines.



↑ Will Ken and Alex fete Trivia Day?

In preparation for his own celebration, Daviau, who was offered a job at Trivial Pursuit after acing a quiz of 10,000 useless facts, plans to brush up on Russian history (including all the czars), reread every People magazine since 1974, brush up on extinct species, memorize every World Series game, then curl up with some cocoa and read a world atlas cover to cover. EMILY BRANDON



→ See what creative types predict the coming years will hold at the "Artists' Visions of the Future Tour." Then resolve to get stuff that cool for your walls. Free, Dec. 31, 2 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6 p.m., Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8th and F streets NW.

Samurai SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: LIGHTWEIGHT

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Last Week's Solution

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How to Play

The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in Express and The Washington Post.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. As always, there's only one solution, which will appear in next week's edition of Weekend Styles.

Can't get enough Sudoku? Find a standard Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Weddings Wanted*



*** Here's our holiday gift to you:** Due to the winter wedding slow-down, you won't have to wait weeks or months to be featured in B.I.O. if you submit now. Don't worry if your nuptials are months away — that's not a problem. Just send an e-mail to weddings@readexpress.com. We only run announcements before the event, though.

express

Be Express'

Next Top Model



Think you've got what it takes to grace the cover of Weekend Styles? Send your name and a recent picture to photo@readexpress.com. Beauty of every kind and both genders is welcome. But if you have a modeling agent, you can't play. And you have to be over 18.

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